





Bulletin of the

American Iris Society

Number 268 January 1988

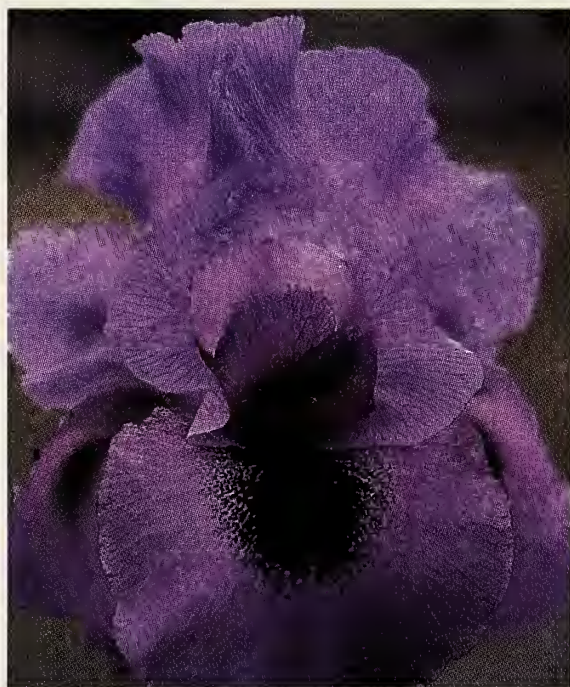


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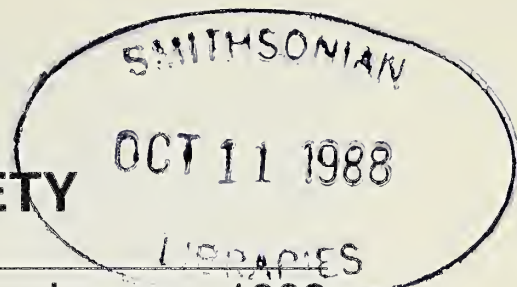


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A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sooner State '88 Registration Information	6
A Good Omen	Perry Dyer..... 8
Iris Specifics.	Eric Tankesly-Clarke .. 12
1988 Symposium	25
Fiesta Phoenix-Medians '87	Jean Morris 29
Irises with Alpines in the Rock Garden	Leo Blanchette 32
Cannington 1987.....	Jennifer Hewitt..... 35
The 1987 Median Season in Massachusetts	Lucy Burton 39
Irises Winning High Commendation 1987	41
1987 Japanese Iris Awards.....	44
1958 Symposium of the Median Iris Society	56
Exhibitions Committee Report for 1987.....	Emma Hobbs..... 60
State of the Art: Median Hybridizing Trends.....	66
Pink MTB—Where, oh Where? Not Here!	Dorothy Guild..... 71
Having Fun with Table Iris	Terry Varner 73
MTB Amoena Plicatas	Lois Kennedy..... 89
Exhibition Certificates 1987.....	95

Regular Features

President's Page	4	Membership Rates	54
International News.....	35	Convention Dates	55
Contributions to AIS		AIS Judges 1988.....	77
Foundation	45	Treasurer's Report.....	86
In Memoriam.....	46	Round Robin.....	91
Ila Crawford.....	46	Minutes, Bd. of Directors	97
Mary Williamson.....	47	How to Register an Iris	105
Bernice Roe	48	Advertising Rates.....	114
AIS Sales Items	49	Bulletin Copy Deadlines.....	114
Youth Views.....	50	Statement of Ownership.....	115
Iris Profiles		Regions and RVPs.....	116
Ken & Agnes Waite	52		

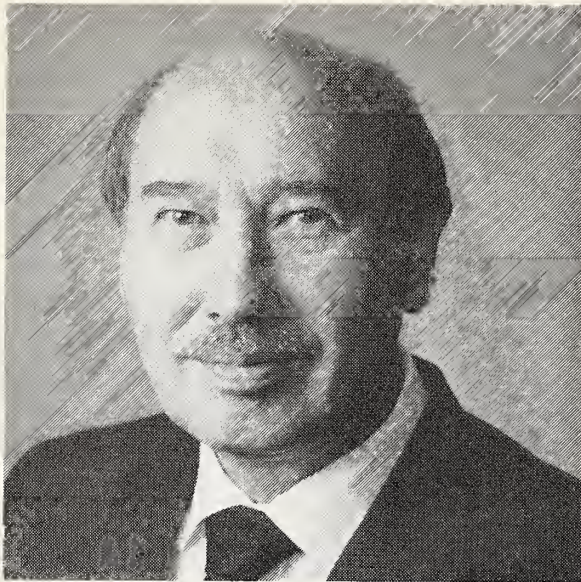
Advertisers in this issue 104

Front Cover: Standard dwarf bearded irises growing in Joe Pye Weed's Garden, Bedford, Massachusetts. Photo by Jan Sacks

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From the Desk of the President

James Rasmussen

I would like to thank our fourth Guest Editor, Marian Schmuhl, for putting forth the work to produce this BULLETIN on the subject of Median iris. She has also done such an excellent job of editing THE MEDIANITE, the publication for this special group of iris enthusiasts.

We salute the entire editorial and bulletin staff for assisting Hooker Nichols, Terry Aitkin, Phil Williams, and Marian Schmuhl with these last four BULLETINS. All of them have done a tremendous job in what most of them have found a task full of new experiences in editing. Our next BULLETIN will be in the hands of Ron Mullin, Pawnee, OK whom the Board has accepted unanimously as Permanent Editor.

I want to express a personal thank you to Francesca Thoolen of Orinda, CA who, for the past six years, has been the Society's treasurer. She has stepped down from this position to share time with her husband, Sven, who is retiring from his position with a San Francisco-based shipping line. Francesca has carried out a difficult job in a most efficient manner. Using her own personal computer, she has taken excellent care of AIS finances. We are indeed indebted to Francesca for countless hours of service and dedication.

It is time for all of our AIS members who are interested in becoming AIS Judges to contact the Judges Training Chairmen in their Regions so that they may start their apprenticeships. Many of our Regions have excellent training opportunities for all judges and would look forward to having YOU learn how to become an accredited judge. The Judges Training Program is one of the most vital parts of the American Iris Society. Our awards system is based on the determination of the judges who say which iris should receive an award. These irises are then presented to the public as the best. If you cannot obtain information from your Region, please contact Hilda Crick, our National Judges Training Chairman. She will put you in touch with the proper person.

As the time draws near for us to plan attending this year's AIS Convention in Oklahoma City, I would like to encourage each and everyone of you convention goers to see to it that EVERYONE feels welcome there, especially the

newcomers to our gatherings. Seats on the buses are not set in stone—if you see a new face on “your” bus some morning, make that person feel right at home! What could be better than saying, “Come right on in—the AIS is happy to have you here!” What could be worse than telling someone, “Go, find a seat elsewhere, you are not wanted on “our” bus!”. That, in effect, is like saying, “We don’t want you among us!” This happened last year in Phoenix, and it was one of the saddest complaints I have ever had. Let’s share our iris interest, let’s share our enthusiasm, and—by all means—let’s share the buses! See you in Oklahoma City!!

Ron Mullin—BULLETIN Editor

Ron Mullin of Pawnee, OK has accepted the position of BULLETIN Editor. Being Immediate Past President of AIS, chairing many committees, chairing two national conventions, writing for our latest Judges Handbook, conducting countless judges training sessions throughout the nation, writing the Regional Vice Presidents Handbook and the Convention Guidebook, Ron really needs no introduction. We are privileged to have Ron in this latest position and are happy to know that the BULLETIN is in good hands.



You are cordially invited by the Tulsa Area Iris Society to attend before or after the AIS Convention in Oklahoma City our scheduled shows.

FIRST SHOW

Saturday, April 30, 1988

Sunday, May 1, 1988

2:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

11:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

Kensington Galleria
71st & S. Lewis

SECOND SHOW

Saturday, May 14, 1988

Sunday, May 15, 1988

2:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

11:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

Tulsa Garden Center
2435 S. Peoria

For more information, contact: **Mr. Paul W. Gossett**
4107 East 2nd Place
Tulsa, OK 74112
(918) 834-8914

SOONER STATE '88

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
The Annual Convention of
THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
May 3-7, 1988

Convention Headquarters
HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT WEST—HOLIDOME
I-40 at Meridian
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73108
Phone (405) 942-8511

Rates: Single, Double, Triple, or Quad \$46 per 8% tax

Reservations: A reservation card will be included with the acknowledgement of your registration, or you may contact the hotel directly. Do NOT use an 800 number. The Holidome will hold a block of rooms until April 18, 1988. After that date, rooms will be on a first-come, first-served basis, if available. Although the hotel has nearly 500 rooms, not all are available to AIS. *Please register early.*

Registration fees: Received by March 15 \$85.00
Received March 16 to April 15 \$95.00
Received after April 15 \$105.00
Youth 18 and under \$65.00

Make checks payable to "1988 AIS Convention."

Mail to: Wilma Bryant
500 W. Lockheed Drive
Midwest City, OK 73110

Partial registration rates will be available on request for advance registrations only. No registrations will be accepted for the *awards banquet or welcome dinner only* after April 15. To attend either of these functions will require registration for other convention functions after that date. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.

Airport Transportation: Courtesy van service is available from Will Rogers World Airport to Holiday Inn West. Be sure to learn whether the Holiday Inn van goes to the correct motel. Cab fares will probably be from \$10 to \$15. The Committee is negotiating for additional courtesy transportation.

NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME AND WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER TOUR

The Sooner State Iris Society has arranged a special tour of this tribute to the Old West. Seventeen western states sponsor this exhibit of painting, sculpture, and memorabilia as a tribute to the men and women who tamed the West. The magnificent "end of the Trail" is spectacular enough to warrant the admission price.

Buses will depart from hotel headquarters at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3. If enough people register, another bus will leave the hotel at 3 p.m. A fee of \$5.00 per person will cover the cost of the bus and admission to the Center. No visit to Oklahoma City is complete without a visit to Persimmon Hill to view the Hall of Fame.

You may include your fee for the tour with your regular registration fee. Please indicate if you prefer the 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. tour and add \$5 per person to the regular registration fee.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 3—Registration opens 12 noon—AIS Board of Directors 2 p.m.—National Cowboy Hall of Fame Tour—RVP Meeting, AIS Foundation, Section Boards, Robin Reception, and other meetings as requested.

Wednesday, May 4—Registration opens 7:30 a.m., AIS Board of Directors, Section Meetings morning and afternoon—Welcome Dinner at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 5—7:30 a.m. Garden tours to Norman, Choctaw, and Nicoma Park, Lunch in Midwest City or at Oklahoma University in Norman. Dinner on your own, Judges Training sessions from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. (2 hours)

Friday, May 6—7:30 a.m. Garden tours to Newcastle and Oklahoma City gardens. Lunch at Will Rogers Park Garden Center. Dinner on your own. Evening free

Saturday, May 7—7:30 a.m. Garden tours to Edmond and Oklahoma City gardens. Lunch at Central State University in Edmond. No Host Social Hour 6:30 p.m. Awards Banquet 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL AIRLINE RATES

American Airlines will make available Meeting Saver fares to Oklahoma City equal to a 40% discount off the full day coach fare in effect on the date tickets are purchased. The tickets must be purchased seven (7) days in advance based on "B" class availability from points within the 48 contiguous states.

The special discount is available only by contacting the American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at the Toll Free Number 1-800-433-1790 and referring to Star File Number S-5300.

A GOOD OMEN

Perry Dyer, Oklahoma

Very often you hear a convention gardener say, "You should have been here last year—the best bloom we've ever had!" and then apologize for this year's less than perfect convention bloom. You won't be hearing that from the "SOONER STATE 88" Convention gardeners. In 1987 we had the worst bloom season in the 20 years I've grown irises. The late freeze left us with 75% loss of bloom, and much of that bloom was on aborted stalks. Perhaps this is a good omen, and the 1988 convention bloom will be perfect. Meanwhile, for an iris to even get written up in this review says something for it.

Medians and Dwarfs

AEGEAN WALTZ (Nichols '87 - BB) An aborted stalk, so classification couldn't be observed, but the flower was small and compact, the stalk appropriately thinner, and foliage narrow and graceful. A white plicata with heavy markings (almost solid) of grape-violet. The pattern was thicker and not as distinctive as it was in Seattle, but this type of pattern always varies with adverse weather conditions. A much-awaited advancement in blue-plic BB's.

Black 83134C (SDB) Wide fat Dixie Pixie type, done in warm white to creamy yellow, finished with a satin sheen and a warmer yellow glow at the base of the standard's midribs and in the heart of the flower. Elegant, and the heaviest substance seen. An '88 introduction.

Black 85334A (MDB) Clean medium brown standards and falls with a distinct clean brick red spot in center of falls. Distinctive veins (not haft marks) radiate from shoulders and yellow beard to the edge of the upper part of the falls. 7" tall grown in too-rich soil, with an occasional branch, but foliage and flower size were in proportion for MDB classification. A probable '88 introduction.

Black 86319B (SDB) A cleaner, deeper, wider Melon Honey type, with light orange standards and slightly lighter, more apricot falls with a hint of a deeper spot pattern only around the beard to the shoulders. Deep orange beards. Superb form, and the best substance of this color class. A future introduction.

BUMBLEBEE DEELIGHT (Norrick '86-MTB) Colorful, bright and bold, yet petite and in class. Golden-bronze standards, rich velvety red-black falls with a halo of the standards' color. Small bright gold beard.

CLASSIC TREASURE (Burger '84-BB) Finally an improvement on the rare Emma Cook color pattern. Icy white with diamond dusting, with only the edge of the falls patterned (non-plicata) in a clear blue. Well-branched, thin show stalks in class, but the flower size occasionally is too large. Nonetheless a worthy addition to the BB class.

CRYSTAL RUFFLES (Dunderman '86-MTB) Two new white MTBs on the market now (see NEW WAVE below) but it isn't really fair to compare them, since CRYSTAL RUFFLES is from diploid plicata breeding, whereas NEW WAVE is tetraploid. CRYSTAL RUFFLES is a sparkling white with hints of

lavender plicata markings in the heart of the flower. Excellent form, plant habits, branching and bud count, but the special plus goes to the hint of tangerine in the beard and the moderate ruffling that is rare in diploid MTBS.

FIDDLER (Stahly '84-BB) My sleeper in the medians this year. I had missed out on it until this year, and it was blooming well and in class in all three gardens. Absolutely smooth, plush, velvety wine-red self with bronze beards. Compact flowers, well shaped, with lightly ruffled horizontal falls. Show stalks with three branches and spur.

HELLCAT (Aitken '83-1B) I think this is the premier 1B on the market today. Deeply saturated deep blue negiecta with charisman and garden effect.

HERO (R & L Miller '87-1B) Clean deep navy blue to violet with no other color (clean hafts and a self beard.) The width of falls and smooth application of color were noteworthy.

LEMON RINGS (Aitken '83-SDB) finally bloomed—of all years! Worth the wait. Finest-formed clean lemon yellow with pure white falls ringed in lemon yellow.

LUCKY DUCK (Aitken '84-SDB) had trouble gowing initially, but now that it is acclimated, has become one of the best new medians in the Blanchard garden. Fat, tailored flowers in light peach, with good carrying power in spite of the pastel tone. The substance, especially for this color class, was commendable. Strong grower, with good bud count and increase/bloom ratio.

NEW WAVE (Hager '86-MTB) A most impressive MTB. Absolutely pure white tetraploid with good form and excellent substance. A strong grower with graceful, well-branched stalks with 3 branches and 7 buds.

NURSERY SCHOOL (Ghio '85-BB) Smooth apricot self in the color range of MARMALADE SKIES but slightly deeper and a self rather than bitoned. Stalks slender and well-branched, but way too tall (36" + in two gardens). Flower size small, compact and in class, so this may potentially be a worthy BB under more "normal" weather conditions. Warm weather after a lot of moisture will sometimes push the best of BB's out of class in the height category.

Tall Bearded

ADVENTURESS (Hamblen '85) Smoky pink standards and smoky lavender falls, slightly banded lighter on the edges, and a burnt sienna beard. Strong and consistent grower.

ALTRUIST (Schreiner '87) Crystalline, glistening blue, slightly bitoned. Graceful, somewhat thin stalks that held up 3 open blooms at once without staking. Heavy bloomer but also very vigorous.

ANNA BELLE BABSON (Hager '85) Inherited the vigor, multiple bloom-stalks and classy form of its parent, BEVERLY SILLS. The pink has quite a bit of yellow pigmentation underlying, creating a more "mellow" look.

Black 83351A. Large, blocky but feminine pastel apricot self with hints of cream in the falls. Darker, harmonious medium apricot beards. Heavily ruffled and lightly laced. Super show stalks with 2 branches and spur, 7 buds. If anything, the stalks are too thick, but with Okie winds, who would dare complain?

BOOGIE MAN (Meek '86) A first-year plant showed promise of this being a superior Cherry Smoke child, with strong plant habits. Deep, almost black with Cherry Smoke undertones. Compact form, with closed, beautiful swirled standards and better-than-average width in the falls. Clean hafts and velvety texture.

CURIOUS YELLOW (Durrance '82) is the brightest gold in irisdom. I have yet to see it on an unaborted stalk here, but it is still so bright that you can see it across the whole garden. What's a stronger word than "intense"?

DARKSIDE (Schreiner '85) The star of my own garden. What late freeze? Five stalks, all tall and strong, opening 3 and 4 at once. This is just the first of many fine Titan's Glory children to be released, and it inherited the strong plants, thick well-branched stalks and large flowers of its father, but with more refined flower shape and deep intense color.

Hoage H78-1D. At the Perkins garden, it was brilliant at the end of the row. Heavily laced, well shaped, laced brilliant orange with the intensity of Orange Star, but perhaps even more carrying power. Huge fat fuzzy deeper bright orange beards. Substance was especially good for the color class, holding up well in midday heat.

Hobbs 82-3-6. A pleasant surprise, as I didn't know Emma was hybridizing. Clean light yellow standards, pastel lavender falls with a blush of white in the center and a darker lavender halo. Bright yellow beards bring continuity to the color transition from standards to falls. Tall strong stalks and healthy plant habits.

HOLY NIGHT (K. Mohr '83) My TB sleeper of the year. A sensational garden iris, with tall, stately stalks just daring the Okie winds. Strong, healthy plants. Lustrous sheen and carrying power, plenty of buds. Consistently superb in four convention gardens.

LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols '86) Registered as a bicolor, it is close to being a red amoena, and is the finest attempt since the old classic, Repartee. Smoky white standards with infusions of lavender. Falls are a changeable taffeta effect of red with a flash of violet at the bright yellow-orange beards. Hafts are commendably smooth, the form finished and tailored, with falls flaring to almost horizontal. Vigor approaches Johnson grass. An overall mysterious "smoked" look throughout the flower, but with great carrying power in the garden.

PLANNED TREASURE (Burger '85) One of the most important color breaks of this decade, but it has the plant habits and show stalk branching to back up its novelty. Clear light pink standards and falls with slightly deeper beard. The falls have a non-plicata wash of harmonious lavender on the edges. The effect is like an Emma Cook in pink.

SARAH KAY (Allen '86) From a new hybridizer down south of the Red River, a different shade of "Blue Luster" blue, having a mysterious, smoky aura. Large, blocky flowers, but the form has a finished look. Excellent stalks and branching.

SHALAKO (Shockey '84) Brilliant but not gaudy, this is a large, well-shaped yellow based plicata with heavy infusions of mahogany brown and red. Clean, smooth tailored look with excellent substance for the color class, superb plant habits, three branches.

TOUCH OF BRONZE (Blyth '83) A mauved lavender-blue with stunning yet elegant deepest bronze beards. Produced quite a show stalk here. There's nothing like it on the market today.

Vizvarie 20-85-A. What a treat to get to share the joy and excitement of viewing the maiden bloom with the hybridizer of as significant a seedling as this. Oklahoma's newest hybridizer, Chris Vizvarie, has produced a sparkling cold white Space Age iris with near-blue horns that may develop into flounces or spoons, once the plant is lined out and tested. Incredible substance, with finished form that is complemented by tight, waxy ruffling. Watch for it next year. Share the thrill!

ATTENTION HYBRIDIZERS

The Sooner State Iris Society is pleased
to announce the Eighth Annual

POLLEN DAUBERS' SEMINAR

February 26-27, 1988

GLENN F. CORLEW

has accepted an invitation to lead sessions on hybridizing for both established and budding future hybridizers. The sessions will focus on Tall Bearded irises. A fee of \$20.00 per person will be charged for the February 27 sessions only (9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.). For further information and assistance write:

Dr. William E. Jones
2312 Butternut Place
Edmond, OK 73013
Phone: 1-405-478-3498

or come at 7:30 P.M. on the 26th to:

Will Rogers Garden Center

3400 N.W. 36 St., Oklahoma City

ATTENTION: JAPANESE IRIS HYBRIDIZERS

The Maine Iris Society will host the Society for Japanese Irises Convention in 1990. This is a request for Japanese irises. The gardens are ready to plant. Irises will be accepted from May 1, 1988, to September 15, 1988. We would like to receive as many irises as possible in the spring. This would give the guest irises two full years of growing before Convention time.

Please send the following information with each plant: Hybridizer's name and address, name or number of the iris, height, color and bloom time. Send irises to: Shirley Pope, 39 Highland Ave., Gorham, ME 04038.

Iris Specifics

Eric Tankesley-Clarke, Missouri

Just as it is impossible for most gardeners to grow a wide selection of all the many different introductions of modern Iris hybrids, so it is also an unreasonable expectation to grow all the different species.

Iris literature generally offers the opinion that there are about 200 species in the genus. Just how many species is open to discussion, since it depends on many things: for instance, how one defines and limits the genus Iris itself, how one defines a species, or how many species remain undiscovered or unpublished. Whether we are botanists or just plain flower lovers, we have made some of these decisions each for ourselves. For instance, every one of us probably thinks that "I know an Iris when I see one." See? You've just decided that you know what to include in the genus and what not to. Whether the next person agrees or not, you have a working definition.

•

One common misconception about species holds that a single plant represents a species. Or, to put it differently, this idea fails to recognize that a species is a collection of individuals having many, *but not all*, characteristics in common.

At a national convention one time, I saw a clump of a clone of *Iris sibirica* which typified this beardless species. That is, this particular clump exhibited many of the same characters in common with other plants which define the species. Yet, I heard someone remark that it could not possibly be *I. sibirica*, because it wasn't exactly like the one in her own garden. This would be akin to someone pointing to a child and saying that the child "couldn't possibly be human, because he doesn't look exactly like my grandchild."

Individuals within a species of Iris may vary from each other, in the shape of petal, the height of stalk, or the color of flower. When we talk about species, we're not talking about only 200 different plants. We're including all the thousands and millions of different wild plants (and the cultivated non-hybrids) which are brought into the Iris fold.

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Another faulty notion contends that species are in a completely different category—a "breed apart"—from the glamorous hybrids we see introduced each year. Forgetfulness on our part contributes to this. We forget that the progress from the species to a cherished new seedling was a slow, gradual process, showing a bit of change from generation to generation, and that we see the accumulation of perhaps 150 years of more or less controlled plant breeding. We didn't leap from *Iris variegata* one year to BEVERLY SILLS the next. To continue that particular example, it took generations, both human and iris ones, to move from small yellow specimens to larger yellow ones, to seashell pink ones, to clear pink ones, to wide, ruffled, clear pink ones. Each step gained something in color, texture, substance, size, and form.

We find that behind each type of iris—Tall Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Siberian, Louisiana, and so on—stands a group of wildlings which, by chance or by choice, parented our classy garden inhabitants of today. And because those wildlings share characteristics with their descendents, many are still worthy garden subjects in their own right.

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At Adamgrove, we have grown perhaps 80 or 100 species of *Iris*, and as many different varieties of each as time and availability have allowed. Unfortunately, that has meant knowing a species through only one or two clones, as inadequate and unsatisfying as growing a large blue iris and a large white one and having to speculate about all the rest of the tall bearded from that. Our great fondness has been for the Eupogons, the “true-bearded”. Just as some named varieties grow more easily than others, we have met greater success with some species clones than others.

We grow our bearded species Iris in relatively heavy soil. The high mineral content enhances their coloring, and I suspect helps prevent the soil from exhaustion quite so soon. Our pH reaction is roughly neutral, leaning toward alkalinity in some spots, but dipping to below 5.0 in others. USDA puts us in Zone 6, but we are near a pocket designated as Zone 5. We cannot depend on snow cover—we have had plants utterly exposed to –20 degree temperatures with strong winds bearing down. Frequent temperature changes, however, easily ranging on a typical winter day from a high of 50 to a low of 0, inflict the real damage. (Just such a winter was nearly our undoing, along with many other nurserymen and gardeners, in 1985.) Summers tend to be hot and dry, with annual rainfall often under 30 inches. Springs, however, can produce more moisture than the soil can handle, causing heavy run-off. Every year, the first two weeks of May bring exceptionally strong winds—the peak of the tall bearded season.

We have done little to the soil itself. An inch or two of shredded bark helps keep weeds down and is gradually enriching the soil, as well as enhancing friability and moisture retention. The species generally get the same fertilizing and spraying that the named bearded varieties receive. The rarity and difficulty of some of them dictate occasional special care. I often spread boughs of evergreen in December to help preserve any snow cover.

Before launching into these descriptions, I should state that these are how the clones appear here, in the Adamgrove garden. Some have come to us mislabeled. Mislabeled can happen anywhere along the way, from the original plant collector to the nurseryman or botanic garden who distributes to the gardener who grows them. We have attempted unravelling them wherever possible, sorting through dozens of sources and sometimes never finding that final confirming piece of information. While it is frequently possible to place a given plant definitely within its correct species, identifying the exact clone too often lies beyond hope. Such impasses frustrate after patient years waiting for bloom. (While such laments are *de rigueur*, I suppose, I wasn't struck by their universality until I found, in the first issue of *The Median*, 1958, the complaint of Rudolf Hanselmayer, the Austrian plantsman who distributed

many species to this country: "It is a pity that so many species are not truly labelled and one often needs 2 or 3 years to see what one has received. The plants which one gets are so small it takes several years to make them available to other people." The more things change. . . .)

I have made no attempt to describe all the clones of bearded Irises we grow, but generally have restricted myself to a selection of those which are more interesting or more certainly identified. I also have eliminated one species from consideration in this article, since we grow literally hundreds of clones of it, namely *I. pumila*. Its place in iris history is surely unique, since it has contributed to so many different modern day types. Its story can be saved for another time.

I have not always followed strict International Botanical Congress rules regarding nomenclature. Since (with one small exception) all references are to *Iris* species or clones, I have frequently dropped the "*Iris*" or "*I.*" which should properly precede each species name. Except where clarity demands, I have abandoned the single quotes which should surround a clonal designation. The order in which I've listed clones or species is not meant to denote any phylogenetic relationships, but is generally only alphabetic or to compare certain characteristics.

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I. aphylla

Especially because of its tetraploidy (48 chromosomes, as in the modern tall bearded irises), this species has intrigued hybridizers for a long time. In a recent issue of the Medianite, Bee Warburton described much about its use as a median parent. Here, I will concern myself mainly with the performance of the plant for its own sake.

We grow around 30 clones of *aphylla*, including forms distributed under



I. aphylla 61-56A

such names as "bohemica", "polonica", and "fieberi" (some under different names may be identical). Few seem outrageously vigorous, but it seems to be a matter of becoming established.

Some settle in immediately. Most are fairly dependable bloomers; they balk at reproducing, though, until they have had time to investigate their surroundings. In general, they are somewhere in the standard dwarf size range, although a few are smaller, and several are considerably larger. They die back entirely in the fall, and rather early at that, leaving almost no trace above ground. Even though they seem to crave cold winters, their rhizomes usually bury themselves beneath the ground entirely, almost never becoming exposed as in most other bearded irises.



I. aphylla H17

us and propagated better when we were in St. Louis, with rich river bottom soil. At last, clumps are forming. It took about six years before it bloomed again, in typical *aphylla* violet. It seems to require the fertilizing that we began giving it, and now appears to have re-established itself well.

H17 of Hanselmayer is a curious thing. Perhaps most curious is the rife disagreement over its color. One can find descriptions varying all the way from smoky violet to yellow. I can't even agree with myself! At different times I have noted it as "creamy grey," "greyed chartreuse", and "smoked yellow". Apparently, it routinely produces about the same amount of yellow coloring, but the anthocyanin production (the violet coloring) varies considerably with the season. One has to wonder whether this clone is pure *aphylla*. Nothing about its growth habit sets it outside the range of *aphylla*. Its form seems within accepted limits. But since no other *aphylla* (to my knowledge) produces yellow pigments in the blades of standards or falls, the spectre of Dubious Identity arises. Crosses and backcrosses need to be made with other *aphylla* clones to test the yellow pigment factors. Crosses also need to be made with other yellow-flowered tetraploids. This has been sug-

Aphylla 61-56A (Randolph), for instance, a short, exceptionally heavily-budded clone, blooms annually, whether newly lifted or not, and seems to multiply reasonably well. One year, it was the only *aphylla* to set no bee pods in a species which is usually most willing. The next year, and every year since, it produced a sizable number. Odd. 61-56A is one of my favorite *aphyllas* because of its clear color, a soft red-violet, but a little bluer than many. In 1983, one plant produced a multi-branched stalk only about 8" high, with 14 buds, with something like 6 open at one time.

The clone, Schreiner #1, has taken three years in one place before it has begun any process one might call "growth." Yet, Schreiner #1 bloomed for



I. aphylla B66-2



I. aphylla B66-1

and leaf growth and shape conform to usual *aphylla* appearances. The cold white flowers have slightly pointed standards; the falls often recurve. I have not used it as a parent, except to self it. Selfing yielded a large pod of seed, and I allowed it to ripen several bee-pods a few years ago. The seedlings which have so far bloomed have all been typical violet *aphyllas*. I would be most interested to see a chromosome count on this one.

B66-1 is distinguished by the form of the flower. Both standards and falls roll back along the sides, parallel to the midribs, creating an almost semi-circular cross-section of each segment. Standards are held vertically on long claws.

H10 of Hanselmayer is one of the stronger-growing *aphyllas*. The plants yield smoothly finished flowers of dark reddish-violet having blue beards. This is the one which is often claimed to be the same as the clone 'Dark Violet'. I have not found conclusive evidence one way or the other.

An *aphylla* labeled simply as 'Slovakia', supposedly collected by Randolph, has a creped texture, with wide, domed, purple standards. The falls are relatively wide and smooth hafted. Its deep blue beard is tipped mustard. This one has large leaves in a yellow-green tone. Growth continues (dare I tempt the fates) to be very good.

gested time and time again over the years, but I can find little about the results of such crosses. I have had only limited success in using its pollen. I have several bee-pod seedlings of it which have not yet bloomed—an anxiously awaited event. H17 appears to be identical with at least one clone grown under the name "Gracilis".

Another curiosity, *aphylla* B66-2, is almost certainly a hybrid. Its growth habit appears purely *aphylla*, but the blooms have a *lutescens* look. (On the other hand, the famous *aphylla* clone, 'Thisbe' (Dykes), well tested in hybridizing, also shares the *lutescens*-like flower form. Or could "Thisbe" be a hybrid, too?) B66-2 does branch from the rhizome, the stalk remains leafless,



I. aphylla H10

'Slovakia' is also large for an *aphylla*, ranging up to 20" tall.

Aphylla U56 is identical to a plant I have seen in several places under the label of *albertii*, but it has no true *albertii* characteristics. Instead, it grows as a giant *aphylla*. At first glance, it might appear similar to any of several "germanicas." However, U56 branches from the rhizome. The seeds are small and very round, like other *aphylla* seed, not the larger, pyriform seeds of the *germanica* group. The pods are a little taller in proportion than other *aphyllas*, but retain the general shape, with the purple ribs most *aphylla* pods have. Seedlings from bee pods emerged about the same time as other *aphylla* seedlings and grow similarly. Its main non-*aphylla* characteristic is that there are usually very large leaf-bracts sheathing the terminal buds and the branches. Could this be a form of *fieberi*?

I. astrachanica

Four clones of this species grow here, all originating from Bee Warburton's garden and ultimately from seed collected by Dr. Rodionenko, the Soviet



I. aphylla 'Slovakia'



I. aphylla U56

botanist who originally described the species. Bee has written of their appearance in a recent AIS Bulletin.

The most striking thing about them is their resemblance to *variegata*, but done in blue. They are not bicolor, but the size, growth habit, form of flower, and especially the veining on the falls all evoke their more famous relative. They are not especially well-branched for us, but the branching is unusual in two of the clones, a sort of Menorah, since the branching is in one plane and tends to bring the blooms all up to a level. In a way, it resembles the branching of at least one clone of *furcata*. Heights range from 8-12". Our clones seem rather susceptible to leaf spot, more so than most of the species. I have made a few crosses in recent years with *variegata*, and a few attempts on other diploids of 24 chromosomes. *I. astrachanica* forms the tight clumps so typical of *variegata* and hybrid miniature

The only reference I find to *astrachanica*'s chromosome count indicates a somatic number of 38. Given the provenance of our plants, together with this species appearance, habits, and breeding behavior, I must conclude that 38 is incorrect, and that the species is actually a 24-chromosome diploid.

I. x barthii

This species, generally considered to be a *aphylla-pumila* hybrid, actually has the look of most 36-chromosome miniature dwarfs in size, vigor, and flower form. Most forms have blue or bluish beards, perhaps an indicator of *aphylla* heritage. One of the strongest growing here has been 61-60B (Randolph), an especially well-formed example. Ivory tan standards arch neatly over similarly colored falls bearing a broad wash of chestnut brown. The falls hold themselves outward more than many *pumila* derivatives. The beards are powder blue.

I. x binata

This species is generally accepted to



I. x barthii 61-60B

are strongly ribbed. The pods more closely resemble most tall bearded pods in the way the ribs are incised. The pods are also proportionately taller, coming almost to a point.



I. astrachanica

be a natural hybrid, involving *Ii. pumila* and *lutescens*. We grow two forms, both notable for the wide and attractive flowers of rich violet, cast with ultramarine blue. They are miniature dwarf in stature.

I. germanica

I include under this species the forms called *croatica*, as designated by Mathew. The clone C2 (Lemperg) is apparently the best known of this group. C2 grows to about 26-28" here. While it resembles *aphylla* in many ways, there are some important differences. As mentioned earlier, its seeds are pyriform (pear-shaped). It does not branch from the rhizome here, although usually branching below the mid-point—occasionally a branch will arise only a short distance above the rhizome. Its leaves

I. lutescens

Our beloved old *chamaeiris*, together with *olbiensis*, *italica*, *virescens*, etc., have now come under this name (See AIS Bulletin #243, page 59). Under this



I. lutescens I22

definition, *lutescens* spans a broad range of characteristics.

Lutescens (chamaeiris) I22 (Randolph) grows less well than most. To date, it has had only one flower per stem, and a small one at that. I find it notable, though, because of the depth of its color. The standards are a very dark violet, and the falls are nearly black, with a very sparse beard. Where the beard sits (or should sit) there is a highly contrasting white arrow.

Two similar clones travel under the name *virescens*. One is S21C of Randolph; the other we designate as U51. These look so much like members of the *reichenbachii* complex that I first thought they might be misnamed. However, several sources verify that various *lutescens* do have such flower form.

Both of these have been rather robust, and are nearly evergreen. (Moving all the stock of both one year left them with less foliage for the winter, and they went into full dormancy.) S21C is the larger of the two. Both have tall, narrow flowers, with the rather pointed look typical of *mellita* or *reichenbachii*, but the effect is stronger in U51. S21C is creamy yellow to almost chartreuse, with a touch of violet blended in, especially in the falls. Some years, S21C is nearly white with pale greenish-violet falls. U51 is more richly colored, and often the falls are true green. It is undoubtedly the greenest iris I have ever seen, unless one includes the little rectangular-leaved corm-bearing *Hermodactylus tuberosus*. No plants have produced branched stems; there are usually two (and rarely three) buds in a socket. They have a rather sweet scent. The spathes of S21C are not sharply keeled, as one would expect if this were *reichenbachii*, but instead are narrow, forming a tube enclosing the perianth



I. lutescens virescens S21C

tube, and remaining mostly green except for a slightly scarious tip. The spathes of U51 are slightly broader, and weakly keeled. The falls of U51 sharply recurve to clasp the perianth tube; S21C recurves less emphatically.



I. lutescens virescens U51

Neither has produced pollen, and they set seed apparently only when a bee does the work, and then sparsely. This makes me wonder if they could be hybrids.

One of our clones of *lutescens*, originally labelled as an *aphylla*, but clearly nothing of the sort, is a tall (18-20") white-bearded form of decidedly distinctive appearance. I now designate it as U46. I have seen it on several occasions labelled as *aphylla* 'Chuchle', so the misnaming must have occurred fairly early in its distribution. The standards are a typical blue-violet. But the falls are deep wine-red, rimmed with the standard color, much like many Standard Dwarfs. The two-budded heads stand high above the foliage on gracefully flexuous stems. A highly vigorous plant, it doesn't resemble a typical Standard Dwarf at all. It never branches, yet the prolific clumps have enough stalks to provide bloom over a respectable period of a couple of weeks. One of the best for garden value. Although I am basically a "lumper", perhaps this clone should be referred to *subbiflora*. I have not measured U46's perianth tube, but this could help settle the question.

I. pallida

A friend of mine once said that he had only to describe an iris as "vigorous", and it would promptly die. That winter of 1985 caused my friend's aphorism to loom before me, as most of the stock of *I. pallida* H5 (Hanselmayer) succumbed. Nonetheless, it is recovering. Hanselmayer's H5 never gets more than about 14" tall here, and mostly much shorter. This distinguishes H5 as one of the smallest *pallida* clones. The stalks bear two branches held more widely than typical *pallida*, with bitone flowers of light violet blue over violet with white beards.



I. pallida H5

Pallida Y2A (Randolph) rarely exceeds 18", having light violet standards, with slightly redder violet falls flashed with blue. The unusual beard consists of a series of tufts of orange, except for the tufts farthest out on the blade, which are white.

'Rhaetica' (Reuthe) is a well-known *pallida*, with relatively blue flowers, but most notable for its white beard which appears to be tipped in tangerine. It generally has a stalk of about 6-8" here, but may get taller if left undisturbed.

Some of the *pallidas* get quite large, as exemplified by typical clones such as Heinig's C1, which we have measured at up to 42" tall. C1 is pale violet blue, with a very slight bitone effect, common in the *pallidas*. It also has clear white hafts, another interesting feature of many *pallidas*. The beards are white, also common in *pallidas*.

Another large *pallida* clone is 'Australis' (Todaro), notable if for nothing else that it has been in cultivation since at least 1861. 'Australis' is not quite so



I. *pallida* 'Rhaetica'



I. *pallida* *illyrica* 'Munich'

large as C1, growing to the neighborhood of 30", and is a little darker. Close examination reveals darker veining, not apparent from a distance. The beards of 'Australis' are lemon, tipped with white. The "grape" scent is somewhat stronger in this clone than in other similar ones.

Some of the smaller forms have been included under the name "*illyrica*" in the past, and if not actually part of the *pallida* species, are clearly very close to it. These forms are generally smaller, and clearer blue. The best one we have seen is 'Munich', a very clear blue, wide formed flower, originally grown by Jean Witt from seed from the Munich Botanic Garden. It remains under about 23" in height, but is too large flowered to be a miniature tall bearded. I cannot speak

from personal experience, but I am told that the *illyrica* forms breed distinctly differently from other *pallidas*, giving smaller plants and true blues.

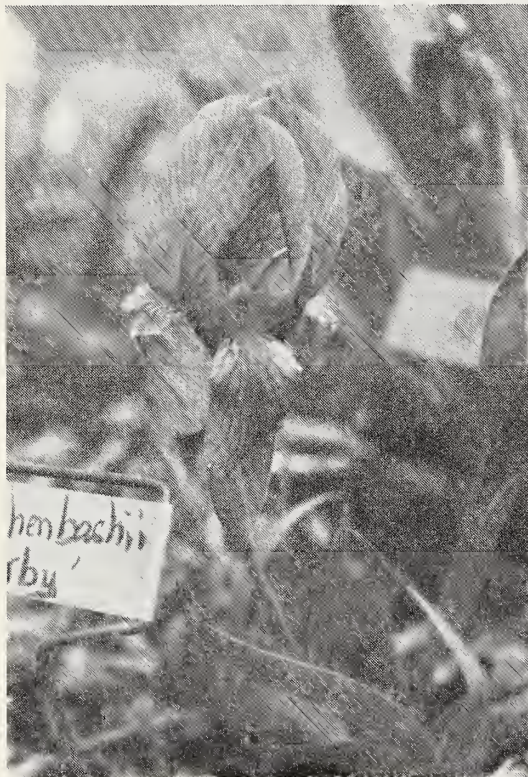
I. reichenbachii

At one time, there was a tendency to relegate the 24 chromosome forms of this small-growing species to the name "*reichenbachii*", while reserving the name "*balkana*" for the 48 chromosome forms. The few 48-chromosome forms I have seen are not vigorous growing, but are important in hybridizing nonetheless.

The chrome yellow form known as 'Van Nes' grows to only 6 or 7 inches. The falls recurve in typical *reichenbachii* fashion, and have a greenish cast which is also typical of the yellow forms of the species. Beards are orange. The hafts of both the standards and the falls are faintly marked with maroon, and the spathes are both keeled, a key diagnostic in identifying this species. At one time, it was thought that this was a 48-chromosome form. I attempted numerous crosses with modern tall bearded hybrids and with *I. aphylla*, and only got one niggardly plant with an *aphylla* as the other parent. However, when I began putting its pollen onto 24 chromosome



***I. reichenbachii* 'Van Nes'**



***I. reichenbachii* 'Darby'**

diploids, such as *Ii. variegata*, *astrachanica*, and *pallida*, or onto miniature tall, pods formed much more regularly. I cannot report yet on the results, since none have yet bloomed. Based on this, I suspect that 'Van Nes' is also diploid.

In the violet tones of this species, the best known clone (and one of only two available in recent years in this country) is the one called 'Darby'. Formerly classed as *balkana*, this little plant, blooming for us at only about 5" high, bears strong resemblance to an oncocyclis (not quite so obvious in the accompanying photograph), with wide, domed standards of exotic smoky light violet, and smaller, recurved falls of darker violet. It is undoubtedly of 48 chromosomes, since a number of generations of seedlings have been raised

from it with known tetraploid tall bearded. The other violet toned form is F26, which is similar but slightly larger.

I. x sambucina

We grow only one clone under this name, Randolph's 61-34. It would be classed as a border. Exhibiting both *pallida* and *variegata* characteristics, it bears flowers with cream standards edged pale yellow. Falls have soft violet



I. reichenbachii F26

veining with the color flowing gently out from the veins to tint the cream ground color. There is very little yellow in this flower. The standards are held out on long claws, as in *variegata*. Branching is relatively wide. Leaf growth and general plant vigor more closely resembles *pallida*. Stalks attain roughly 26", occasionally more. Leaf fans tend to lean after the bloom season.

I. varbossiana

This is another species represented here by only one clone. To my knowledge, this clone has no number. Growing much like a typical antique tall bearded, but staying within border range, the plant produces stalks to about 24", but occasionally to 28", with two branches and seven buds. Flowers are purple, with very dark violet falls and

prominent white haft markings. Beards consist of long white filaments with yellow tips. This year, it had many bee pods, but few of these had any seed, an observation which seems to parallel Prodan's. I have attempted several crosses with it over several years—none have taken, diploid or tetraploid.

I. variegata

Besides providing the gift of Yellow to modern tall-bearded breeders, *variegata* charms in its own right. The clones we grow are nearly all more delicate—in constitution and appearance—than the HONORABLE complex derived from the species. (As an aside, HONORABLE is not pure *variegata*, as has occasionally been supposed. Based on the relative shortness of the claws which hold the petals, the width of the flower segments, the stoutness of the stalk, the general vigor, and the overall appearance, it must involve a significant amount of *pallida* heritage.)

One coming from Blazek (I don't have enough information to identify it further) flings up brilliant deep yellow standards, veined faintly with brown near the base. The falls are actually white, heavily veined with dark red brown. It is a reluctant grower, and cannot be depended upon to bloom every year unless you have sufficient numbers. Blazek's *variegata* is also small, seldom reaching over 8-9".

I once received a *variegata* under the name of Columbus. I suspect that this is the clone designated in the Median Iris Society's 1970 species listing as 'Roberts'. The segments are actually quite small. Standards and style arms



I. variegata 61-72A



I. variegata, Welch #6

are a deep clear yellow. The falls are veined black maroon, becoming solid black maroon at the tip. The falls are edged all the way around in light yellow. The beard is yellow, except for the outer one-eighth to one-quarter inch, which is white. Stalks rise to about 9-12". Another one that is penurious in growth and bloom.

Randolph's 61-72A is larger and more vigorous than either of the foregoing, sending up 14-16" stalks. The deep yellow standards (deeper than Roberts') top light yellow falls with stripes in blackish brown, which coalesce into a solid brown blotch flowing out completely to the tip of the fall, but edged at the sides with yellow. The beard is entirely yellow. I have seedlings from both 'Roberts' and 61-72A, intercrossed with various other *variegatas*, as well as onto some other diploid species and hybrids.

Welch #6 gives a browner effect, and is the only *variegata* we grow to do this. The standards, held widely erect, are golden amber. White falls are sharply lined in dark maroon brown, again forming a solid spot of color near the end, but the amber edging is faintly apparent around the very rim of the falls. This one has proven a stronger grower than some of the others. It is a little larger than 61-72A.

This article has reviewed only a few of the most notable clones of Iris species. Others have not grown here long enough for me to make sufficient observations worth reporting. A handful stubbornly refuse to fly their colors unless coddled over 3 or 4 years. Some have proven themselves valuable as garden perennials, without having to justify their existence as part of a preserved gene pool. No matter how many we grow, the variations and mysteries at once fascinate and educate us.

1988 SYMPOSIUM

POSITION		VOTES	VARIETY	HYBRIDIZER	YEAR	SEASON	HEIGHT	COLOR
1987	1988							
1	1	1045	BEVERLY SILLS	B. Hager	'79	M	36"	Pink
2	2	642	VICTORIA FALLS	Schreiners	'77	E-L	40"	Blue, white fall spot
3	3	630	STEPPING OUT	Schreiners	'64	M-L	38"	White, blue violet plicata
6	4	626	VANITY	B. Hager	'75	E-L	36"	Pink
4	5	585	SONG OF NORWAY	W. Luhn	'79	M-L	38"	Powder blue, blue beards
5	6	547	MARY FRANCES	L. Gaultier	'73	M	38"	Blue-orchid
7	7	539	LACED COTTON	Schreiners	'80	M-L	34"	White
10	8	482	GOING MY WAY	J. Gibson	'72	M	37"	White, blue violet plicata
9	9	480	MYSTIQUE	J. Ghio	'75	E-L	36"	Light blue/blue purple
8	10	476	COPPER CLASSIC	E. Roderick	'79	L	30"	Burnt orange
11	11	458	TITAN'S GLORY	Schreiners	'81	E-M	37"	Dark Violet
12	12	422	SUPERSTITION	Schreiners	'77	M	36"	Maroon black
13	13	393	BRIDE'S HALO	H. Mohr	'73	E-M-L	36"	White, banded yellow
15	14	370	JOYCE TERRY	T. Muhlestein	'74	M-L	38"	Yellow/white edged yellow
17	15	341	MULLED WINE	K. Keppel	'82	L	36"	Raspberry burgundy
23	16	321	LADY FRIEND	J. Ghio	'81	VE-E	38"	Garnet red
16	17	313	RUFFLED BALLET	E. Roderick	'75	M-L	30"	Blue white/medium blue
18	18	298	BUBBLING OVER	J. Ghio	'82	E-M-L	36"	Blue-lilac
22	19	294	GAY PARASOL	Schreiners	'74	M	35"	Lavender/rose violet
20	20	293	KILT LILT	J. Gibson	'70	E-M	40"	Tan gold/maroon, white plic
14	21	285	DAZZLING GOLD	D. C. Anderson	'81	M	29"	Yellow, veined red brown
—	22	284	JESSE'S SONG	B. Williamson	'83	M	36"	White, methyl violet plicata
19	23	281	CRANBERRY ICE	Schreiners	'76	M-L	36"	Cranberry violet
30	24	278	CUP RACE	S. Buttrick	'63	M-L	36"	White
28	25	272	GRAND WALTZ	Schreiners	'70	M-L	35"	Lavender orchid

21	25	272	RINGO	G. Shoop	'79	M	36"	White/grape, edged white
28	27	264	DUSKY DANCER	W. Luihn	'67	M	36"	Violet black
32	28	263	ENTOURAGE	J. Ghio	'77	E-M-L	40"	Dusty rose
23	29	262	LEMON MIST	N. Rudolph	'72	E	30"	Lemon yellow
27	29	262	SHIPSHAPE	S. Babson	'69	M	38"	Medium blue
25	31	253	DEBBY RAIDON	Mrs. H. Kuntz	'65	M-L	36"	Yellow/white, edged yellow
45	32	251	QUEEN IN CALICO	J. Gibson	'80	M	34"	Apricot, red violet plicata
42	33	247	CAMELOT ROSE	C. Tompkins	'65	M-L	30"	Lilac/burgundy
48	34	246	PERSIAN BERRY	L. Gaulter	'77	M	35"	Mulberry lavender blend
33	35	244	PINK TAFFETA	N. Rudolph	'68	E-M	31"	Rose pink
34	36	240	STUDY IN BLACK	G. Plough	'68	E-M	36"	Red black
38	37	237	SON OF STAR	G. Plough	'69	E-M-L	36"	Cadmium orange
47	38	235	BAYBERRY CANDLE	C. DeForest	'69	M	36"	Chartreuse/golden olive
41	39	234	NEW MOON	N. Sexton	'68	M	36"	Lemon yellow
51	40	231	CHRISTMAS TIME	Schreiners	'65	M	41"	White, tangerine red beards
30	41	230	BABBLING BROOK	K. Keppel	'66	M	38"	Light blue
36	42	228	EASTERTIME	Schreiners	'80	M-L	38"	Cream/white, edged gold
35	43	226	DREAM LOVER	E. Tams	'71	M-L	38"	Blue white/blue violet
44	44	225	LEDA'S LOVER	B. Hager	'80	M	38"	White
48	44	225	MICHIGAN PRIDE	T. Berndt	'76	M	36"	Yellow/maroon brown
40	44	225	QUEEN OF HEARTS	O. Brown	'74	M	36"	Buff pink/ivory, buff pink
26	47	220	NAVY STRUT	Schreiners	'74	E-M	35"	Dark violet blue
57	48	219	LORILEE	Schreiners	'81	M-L	37"	Rose orchid
37	48	219	RANCHO ROSE	J. Gibson	'75	M	38"	Salmon rose, magenta plicata
61	50	210	TEMPLE GOLD	W. Luihn	'77	M-L	38"	Yellow
51	51	209	WELL ENDOWED	J. Ghio	'79	E-M	40"	Gold
39	52	202	LATIN LOVER	G. Shoop	'69	M	36"	Lavender pink/grape wine
71	53	201	PARADISE	J. Gatty	'80	M-L	33"	Peach pink
59	53	201	SAPPHIRE HILLS	Schreiners	'71	M	36"	Blue

64	53	201	WINTER OLYMPICS	O. Brown	'63	E-M	37"	White
87	56	200	SKY HOOKS	M. Osborne	'80	M	38"	Soft yellow, violet horns
54	57	199	CATALYST	K. Keppel	'80	M	35"	Yellow
52	58	195	GOLD GALORE	Schreiners	'78	M-L	34"	Golden yellow
42	59	193	FIVE STAR ADMIRAL	J. Marsh	'74	M	34"	Dark blue
55	60	192	PIPING HOT	Schreiners	'81	E-M	35"	Peach and white blend
61	60	192	WINE AND ROSES	D. Hall	'63	M	35"	Rose pink/wine purple
65	62	191	THEATRE	K. Keppel	'81	E-M	34"	White and violet bitone plic
46	63	185	SHEER POETRY	D. Palmer	'79	M	36"	Buff, lavender and tan blend
76	64	176	BLUE SAPPHIRE	Schreiners	'53	E	40"	Light blue
61	64	176	BUFFY	O. Brown	'69	M	34"	Buff pink, ivory in falls
78	66	173	TUT'S GOLD	Schreiners	'79	M-L	37"	Golden yellow
57	67	172	GALA MADRID	L. Peterson	'68	M-L	30"	Butterscorch/wine red
67	68	171	SPINNING WHEEL	D. C. Nearpass	'76	M	34"	Off white/blue, white plic
53	69	170	ST. LOUIS BLUES	Schreiners	'79	L	35"	Medium blue, white fall spot
87	69	170	SWAZI PRINCESS	Schreiners	'78	M	36"	Violet black
87	71	167	AMETHYST FLAME	Schreiners	'58	M	35"	Amethyst orchid
65	71	167	WHITE LIGHTNING	J. Gatty	'74	E	35"	White, yellow beards
60	73	165	BROADWAY	K. Keppel	'81	E-M	34"	Gold/ivory, maroon plicata
56	73	165	LACY SNOWFLAKE	Schreiners	'77	M	38"	White
75	75	163	ICE SCULPTURE	B. Hager	'75	M	36"	Ice blue
72	76	162	GOLD TRIMMINGS	Schreiners	'75	M-L	37"	Gold, washed white
76	77	161	BLUE LUSTER	O. Brown	'73	M	38"	Deep violet blue
69	78	158	HEATHER BLUSH	B. Hamner	'77	E-M	35"	Pink/amethystviolet
—	79	154	PLEATED GOWN	E.. Roderick	'81	L	34"	Light to medium yellow
—	80	153	INFINITE GRACE	M. Hamblen	'82	M	36"	Warm white/medium pink
93	80	153	RON	M. Hamblen	'81	M	36"	Violet blue
85	82	150	EXOTIC STAR	G. Plough	'75	E-M	36"	Dark violet, white fall spot
82	83	147	ORANGE EMPIRE	B. Hamner	'74	M-L	37"	Cadmium orange

87	84	145	CHERRY SMOKE	D. Meek	'78	M-L	34"	Red black
68	84	145	DOVER BEACH	D. C. Nearpass	'72	E-M-L	42"	White/light blue
69	86	144	CHARTREUSE RUFFLES	N. Rudolph	'76	M	34"	Lilac grey, edged chartreuse
82	86	144	FRESNO CALYPSO	J. Weiler	'78	M-L	36"	Cadmium orange
74	86	144	PINK SLEIGH	N. Rudolph	'70	M	30"	Blue pink
87	89	142	ERLEEN RICHESON	E. Roderick	'79	M	32"	Peach pink
95	90	140	MATINATA	Schreiners	'68	M-L	39"	Dark Violet
85	91	139	SHOWCASE	Schreiners	'75	M	35"	White, yellow, brown plicate
73	92	138	BRANDY	J. McWhirter	'81	M	36"	Pinkish tan and gold blend
80	93	136	AUTUMN LEAVES	K. Keppel	'74	M	34"	Brown and red violet blend
—	93	136	HINDENBURG	W. Maryott	'83	M	37"	Orange
96	93	136	LOVELY KAY	M. Hamblen	'80	M	32"	Pink
79	96	135	CHERUB CHOIR	G. Corlew	'68	M	32"	Pink and white blend
82	96	135	ORANGE STAR	M. Hamblen	'81	M-L	30"	Cadmium orange
—	98	134	CAPRICIOUS	M. Hamblen	'81	E-L	32"	Apricot/white, raspberry
80	98	134	WEDDING CANDLES	Schreiners	'82	E-M	36"	Cream/light yellow
—	100	133	MASTER TOUCH	Schreiners	'80	E-M	40"	Dark Violet

Runners-up: 126-DESERT ECHO, TIDE'S IN; 123-SPARTAN, SPECTACULAR BID; 122-GOOD MORNING AMERICA, NIGHT OWL; 119-GENTLE RAIN; 117-SPECULATOR; 115-BLACK DRAGON, COLOR CODED, SILVER YEARS.

New to the SYMPOSIUM this year are JESSE'S SONG, INFINITE GRACE, HINDENBURG, CAPRICIOUS, MASTER TOUCH, and PLEATED GOWN returns after being off for a year. They replace DESERT ECHO, COLOR CODED, NIGHT OWL, GENTLE RAIN, SILVER YEARS, and SPARTAN.

All RVPs reported regional membership count and total ballots cast. Results show 24% of AIS members voted the Symposium.

Fiesta Phoenix—Medians '87

By Jean Morris, Missouri

We had fun, fun, fun at Fiesta Phoenix. Headquarters was the Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs. It was a beautiful resort setting and even included breakfast in the courtyard each morning at 5:45. Not just a roll and coffee either, but the works. The iris boutique where crafts and art items could be purchased was a great idea. The Sun Country Iris Society and Region 15 really put on a grand tour full of beautiful irises with interesting companion plants; and the hospitality was "southwest" friendly. Having the warm afternoons free to swim was an added plus. This was more than an AIS Convention, it was a vacation.

While I enjoyed all of the many iris types—Tall Bearded, Spuria, Louisiana, and Arils—I especially took note of the Medians growing here. In the Parish garden we liked the BB *Pinch of Spice* (Moore's '84) with bright golden yellow standards over yellow ground falls with cinnamon brown plicata markings. The yellow orange beards make it really bright. I especially like this one because the flower is the right size and the stalks look great. The IB *Lilac Point* (Willott '81) was blooming well here. It is a white ground plicata with pale violet stitching. The white beards are tipped brown and the hafts are also brown.

At the Errigo garden, *New Wave* (Hager '86) was a good MTB in bloom. It is a cute white with cream beards. Also *Kirsch* (Burch '84) was a nice BB. It is really red with old gold beards.

The Don and Bobbie Shepherd garden, a commercial planting, is quite extensive, complete with a good seedling patch. We also enjoyed their vegetable garden featuring one of the most life-like scarecrows we've ever seen. Bobbie was the general chairman of Fiesta Phoenix—a BIG job. The garden guests took note of the fact that the Shepherds had sheep, lots of them, in a pasture adjacent to the iris planting. Their bleating was nice background music, and before long one guest was walking around saying, "Baaa, baaa." Dick Faris, standing nearby asked, "Feeling sheepish?" The reply was "Baaad!" Oh yes, here we liked *Shenanigan* (Keppel '85) a nice peach BB with red violet plicata falls and peach beards.

Next stop was the Johnson garden where we took note of the IB *Merry Oaks* (Willott '84) a brown plicata, and *Jewel of Omar* (Boswell '86) listed as an AM. It has lavender standards and old gold falls with dark brown beards. The flower was pretty, the height thirty inches tall.

In the Spiess garden we liked the BB *Impelling* (Boushay '79) a peachy thing with tangerine beards. It is nicely ruffled and grows in class.

The Miller/Mosca Gardens are right next door to each other. These two young families are referred to as the M&Ms. Here we loved the IB *Little Willie* (Shepherd '85). This banded variegata made a nice clump. There were great Arils here, too.

At the Floyd Wickenkamp garden in Sun City, Arizona, there were no medians of note, but outstanding cacti were everywhere, some in bloom. The Saguaro in the front was quite large. We are told this cactus, the state flower of

Arizona, grows only in the Arizona desert, nowhere else in the world. A cactus in back housed a cactus wren's nest and everyone was standing around trying to photograph the little mama bird. The fragrance of the Mock Orange (*Pittosporum Tobira*) was so sweet and the *Hippeastrum Hybrid Amaryllis* was nearly shocking in bright red with its distinct white ray pattern. Floyd, a Spuria man, is secretary-treasurer of this AIS section. His Spuria *Son of Sun* (Wickenkamp '83) was blooming in all of its bright yellow glory and ended up being the winner of the President's Cup. I just must mention the TB *Heartlight* (Nelson '86). The color defies description. Several people were standing around wavering between cantelope cream blend and pastel beige apricot. Howard Goodrick of Hemet, California, settled it. "Looks like good Jersey cream, to me," he said. We like that description and also the flower. It has soft orange beards and good tall stalks that make a beautiful clump. The standards were open but holding nicely. Why doesn't someone use it in Median hybridizing to get that soft different color?

The Bruner garden was next and there we loved the MTB *Lively Rose* (K. Fisher '86). It is very bright and cute with orchid standards, rosy violet falls and yellow beards. The SDB, *Fiddlin' Flirt* (Bausch, no date listed) was blooming here in red violet but growing at IB height.

The Schumacher garden was a real showplace. Here, a stream actually ran under the house and out the other side. With the tennis court, putting green, volleyball court, childrens' playground, trampoline, pool, hot tub, canopied ping-pong table, miniature playhouse, and separate "bed & breakfast" cottage, it was hard to remember that we came to see irises. The iris patch was small compared to the extensive rose garden, cactus garden, wildflower garden and bedding plants of all types everywhere. I've never seen so many pansies in one spot, ever! We did take note of the BB *Golden Calf* (Byers '88) a pale yellow horned one. We love the name. If it doesn't stay in class, can we call it golden cow?

The Soloman garden was next and these people grow medians well. They grow everything well. Here *Pinch of Spice* was again beautiful. It looks great in a clump! The MTB *Rosemary's Dream* (Dunderman '82) was looking good. This rose over rose on white plicata is so nicely formed. The BB *Whoop 'Em Up* (Brady '72) was blooming very well. This bright variegata is showy. The BB *Pink Bubbles* (Hager '80) is a nice looking pastel pink and the BB *Marmalade Skies* (Niswonger '78) made a great peachy clump. The IB *Bold Print* (Gatty '82) is a pretty orchid mauve on white plicata but was growing too short here for the flower size.

The Kary garden, set in the middle of a grapefruit orchard, was last on the tour. This garden was just lovely. They were encouraging everyone to pick, eat and take grapefruit, as many as could be carried. The irises were very well grown and the garden beautifully landscaped around patio, pool and hot tub. The latter soothed many tired feet. Here, Hager's *New Wave* was again doing well. The IB *Moss Bay* (Lankow '86) was different looking in olive green with blue beards and blue streaks down the falls from the beards. Putting on a show was the BB *Peccadillo* (Keppel '83) with peach standards, peach falls

with red violet markings, and red orange beards. There were some gorgeous Arils here and again, *Heartlight* was doing well.

I should mention that the hotel planting was outstanding but was mostly TBs. If you couldn't walk the many hills to get there, you could always flag down a hotel golf cart to take you. The hotel built the stone terraces for the beds and provided the necessary water each day. Many Pointe employees visited and enjoyed the iris planting. Did anyone sign up any new AIS members?

Thanks Phoenix! You made my first visit a real Fiesta!

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DANCE AWAY 34", EM. Delightful—lilting. Domed, fawn-pink standards infused violet at haft area; pearled violet falls rimmed fawn-pink with deeper toned hafts; show-off rusty orange beards tipped light violet. Dancing, horizontal falls. Excellent branching and bud count. (Graduation X Sophistication). Sdlg. H81-19A \$30.00

WINIFRED ROSS 36", ML. Ruffled, wide-petaled loveliness with peach-pink standards, rodeine purple falls and bushy red-orange beards. Splendid stalks, many buds. Honeysuckle fragrance. ((Dream Lover x Venetian Dancer) X Frances Gaulter sib). Sdlg. H80-37B \$30.00

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Melba and Jim Hamblen

Irises with Alpines in the Rock Garden

Leo Blanchette, Massachusetts

Low growing bearded irises are outstanding accent companion plants for a scree rock garden. Their green blade-like leaves provide a striking contrast to dainty alpines. The bearded blossoms provide an added bonus with their warm welcome to spring.

Scree conditions are very different to those found in the usual perennial border. Scree, by nature, is an area at the base of a mountain cliff. Erosion wears away bits and pieces of the cliff creating a soil that is made up of stone dust, chips and chunks. Plant material that once grew here along with vegetation that was blown to this area by the winds provides organic matter for the soil.

I have tried to duplicate these conditions in my rock gardens by creating a soil that is extremely well drained, yet rich enough to retain some moisture. The original soil was removed to a depth of 24 inches where I hit a layer of sand. It is very important to remove any loam that may exist at the surface. (A major problem often arises after a few years if you don't. Earthworms present in the soil gradually raise the loam up into the scree. As they burrow through the ground ingesting soil and organic matter, they excrete castings that are very high in nitrogen. The scree becomes too rich and it no longer has exceptional drainage.) The area was then backfilled with a soil combination of 10% leaf mold, 10% peat moss, 50% very sandy loam, 25% stone chips and 5% pea stone (¼ to ½ inch stone.) To this, eight pounds of superphosphate (0-20-0) was added to the soil for every 100 square feet. Lime was also added to large areas to provide a high pH for plants that need a calciferous soil.

Any water that remains around the crowns of alpines often causes rot, so to further reduce any surface moisture, a two inch layer of pea stone was added as mulch. This also cuts down on weeding, lessens winter heaving and provides a grey background which is a wonderful contrast to green foliage.

Initially my want list contained a large number of plants that formed low, dense mats or tight little buns blooming mostly in June and July. I soon realized that a vertical foliage accent was needed. I like to see a lot of color during the growing season. When a plant is not in flower, the foliage should add to the overall effect of the garden. I began looking for plants with long, broad pointed leaves that would enjoy an alkaline soil. I wanted the leaves first—foliage is often more important to me than flowers. If the plant bloomed in April or May that would be a bonus. I decided to try the lower irises. They have been one of my most pleasant gardening surprises.

Not only do they look good in the scree, they seem to flourish. Having planted some varieties in both perennial borders and the rock garden, I found those in the rock garden to be far more floriferous and to multiply two to three times faster. The leaves have remained in excellent condition far into the growing season, with little if any problems from disease.

I don't care for plants with huge flowers. I favor plants with delicate, well-proportioned bloom. The miniature dwarf bearded iris, standard dwarf bearded iris and intermediate iris have been an excellent pick for this. With their smaller blossoms they do not yell out, "Hey, look at me!", but rather provide an excellent combination with the early blooming alpinines.

It would be far too lengthy to list all the plants grown in my rock garden, but I can briefly comment on a few of my favorites.

The first plant to bloom anywhere in my gardens is *Draba aizoides*. Only a few inches tall, it blooms in early March. The yellow blossoms are a welcome sight so early in the spring.

The next major bloom comes from the MDBs. TIC TAC is a little charmer. Blooming in early April its light blue flowers are a bright spot in the garden. This is also my fastest increaser. I started with a single fan in 1983 and I counted over 100 in the fall of 1985. MDB COMMENCEMENT is also a very early bloomer with its yellow flowers. MDB SCRIBE seems to be on everyone's favorite list. Blooming in early May, the flowers are white with blue plicata markings.

When most of the MDBs are in bloom there is also a burst of color from a number of different plants. *Alyssum montanum* and *Alyssum scardicum* both grow to about eight inches and are covered with yellow flowers. *Draba siberica*, a dense plant with four inch flower stalks, is usually so heavy with bloom that its green leaves can hardly be seen.

An overlap of bloom occurs when the SDBs begin to bloom. SDB BLACK VEIL and MICHAEL PAUL are outstanding contrast plants to the masses of yellow, as they provide an almost black color to the garden. Two yellow SDBs that I have become very fond of are SUNBRELLA and DASHAWAY. These blend nicely with the other shades of yellow. GRAPESICLE is my best grower. It multiplies very fast. The flowers are a light violet that perfume the air (excellent when planted near the darker SDBs.)

As the SDBs start to pass, *Lewisia cotyledon* begins to bloom with outstanding waxy pink blossoms. The flowers are delicate and blend well with other plants, but once seen they are not soon forgotten. The leaves remain green all year forming a rosette about six inches across. Another species is the very small *Lewisia nevadensis*. With small white blossoms and quill-like deciduous leaves, it is my favorite form.

The IBs reach the limit on height in the garden so only a few are grown in the rock garden. My favorite, AZ AP, is a very nice pale blue. Although it is not a real fast multiplier for me, the foliage does remain very clean during the growing season.

Allium karataviense is a striking plant both in flower and foliage. The white flowers make up a ball about the size of a softball yet it is only nine inches tall. The leaves are blue and very wide. Its only fault lies in the fact that the leaves disappear by the end of June. Planted behind a low rock it makes such a striking addition that it is really worth trying.

Of the many plants that put on their floral display in the summer, I think no

rock garden should be without a number of campanulas. These wonderful, long blooming plants with bell-like flowers provide an abundance of color until frost. *Campanula carpatica* var. *turbinata* is a low plant, only growing to about four inches. It has flat light blue flowers with whitish centers. *Campanula nitida alba*, a nine inch beauty with white bells, a *Campanula persicifolia alba* in miniature. *Campanula glomerata* var. *acaulis* is four to six inches tall with upward facing bells in abundance at the tip of each stem. I grow this in both a blue and white form.

I find that combining different compatible plants can add a great deal of form and texture to any garden. I enjoy growing many kinds of plants together, not only in the rock garden, but in my perennial borders as well. If you are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit my gardens. Maybe we can share a few ideas.

(Leo Blanchette's garden will be on tour during the Median Muster, Boston 1989.)

(Reprinted from the Medianite, Vol. 27, No. 1, Spring 1986)

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International News

Cannington 1987

British Iris Society 65th Anniversary

It was a very international gathering which began to assemble on May 26th, with Australia, New Zealand, the United States, West Germany, Holland and Italy all represented. Cy Bartlett, the convention chairman, started by showing us his and the College's gardens, and especially the irises, which in spite of changeable spring were looking very good.

Most U.K. members came on the 27th, and by that time the Hall looked interesting with lots of displays. The Iris Artefacts display was fascinating, as so many people brought all sorts of items, all very covetable. Ray Jeffs' Yugoslavian net curtaining was easily the biggest! George Cassidy had sent a collection of iris paintings by W. J. Caparne from the Society's archives, with biographical notes, and there were modern paintings too, including a very striking group by Dorothy Bovey. Then John Taylor's family most kindly lent his tremendous collection of medals, certificates and trophies, national and international, and his 'stud book' and photographs, which added up to a truly impressive display. Andrew Tompsett brought masses of Dutch irises from Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station in Cornwall, including two particularly fine ones, WHITE BEAUTY and TEXAS GOLD. If one wanted to know how the Year Book is produced, there was an explanatory display, and the artefact (and book) collectors could buy from Anne Blanco White, who always seemed to be busy at the B.I.S. sales stall. The floor of the hall had tables of show irises—amazing in number and quality and brought by many different members. It's not only the big efforts, but many smaller ones by many people, that add up on such an occasion.

In mid-afternoon the proceedings began. Richard Brooks told us about his visit to iris nurseries in the western U.S.A., with slides. Later he staged an impressive display of medians imported from these nurseries. Then Ray Jeffs talked about the design of iris gardens. Verdict: most are rather uninspired, but there are honourable exceptions. Paul Richardson spoke on the iris scene

in New Zealand. Then we had supper, the first of a series of very good and ample meals. The standard of comfort at the College is a cogent reason for continuing to go there for our conventions, and the kindness and helpfulness of the staff is another.

If we are only to have a Cannington once in five years, we'll make every minute count, so it was off for the first garden visit, to Hestercombe, which was very tranquil in the evening light, with effective clumps of irises. Designed by Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll, it is now restored and well cared-for by the Somerset Fire Brigade. Then back to the College and Anne Blanco White's talk on 'Form Divine', intended to make us think hard about what is meant by "iris form" in all its meanings and judges' attitudes to it. Not only were we thinking after the talk, we sat late over coffee and drinks discussing the matters she raised.

It was gardens all day on the 28th, a lovely sunny day. Four gardens, all different, all full of interest. A plantsman's garden at Corsley Mill, really requiring several hours for close inspection of all the plants, many of which were rare ones. Time ran out and we were off to Stourton House, where there was much to see and a delight to explore. Stourhead, next, was a complete contrast, one of the most famous landscape gardens on the grand scale. In the evening we went to a Queen Anne country house at Barford Park surrounded by grass, water, trees and a formal garden—all so peaceful until the woodland and bog garden exploded in a riot of colour especially from primulas.

On Friday we spent the morning "at home". There was a flower arranging demonstration attended by about half the party. At the same time, the others enjoyed a series of excellent talks: Andrew Tompsett on the work on Dutch irises at Rosewarne; Tomas Tamberg on the wide range of inter- and intra-species crosses he is working on; Margaret Lee on the 'Sydney Louisiana Iris Spectacular' which will be a highlight of the 1988 Iris Society of Australia convention; and Currier McEwen on some of his latest Siberian and Japanese introductions and seedlings.

Whilst the talks were going on, a panel of international judges, including AIS members Currier McEwen and George Sutton, gathered to judge the iris show. There are classes for medians, TBs, species, and beardless hybrids. Cy Bartlett's seedling S/B1 was Best in Show—a *plicata* with plum-coloured markings on a pale yellow ground, the centres of the petals being white.

We visited Knightshayes garden in the afternoon, where *Iris laevigata* and its variety *colchesterensis* were in full bloom in the pool and much admired. In the evening we had Dinner, followed by speeches by the College Principal and Ray Jeffs, Margaret Lee and Frances Love. Then came an unusual item, a short play about iris breeders. It was fortunate that this was staged in London in 1986 and came to Cy's attention, and that he is a member of the very good local amateur dramatic society. 'The Betrothal' is by Lanning Wilson, who certainly knows iris people. We recognised and were amused by the authenticity of dialogue between two breeders, who are furious at the seedlings' rejection by the judges and who are also at odds with the world in general.

Following the play was a Foster slides/music/words presentation, beautifully and enchantingly done by Maureen under the title 'The Iris Rainbow'. All the elements are blended together to create a symphony of sights and sounds which always produces a spellbound audience.

Saturday was a little sad, as the end of such a memorable event approached, but we enjoyed another good day before we left, first visiting Barrington Court, where there were irises in quantity and in full bloom in the garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll. The final visit was to Tintinhull, another gem where the arts of plantsman and landscape gardener were beautifully combined in Mrs. Reiss, and her traditions are superbly maintained. As if to emphasise our feelings, rain began to fall, but as we dispersed we knew we would have memories not only of the official events, but also the individual experiences, friendships, and the sum of everyone's contributions to Cannington 1987.

Jennifer Hewitt,
B.I.S. Year Book Editor

BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY AWARDS, 1987

Dykes Medal: BUCKDEN PIKE (TB)—Bryan Dodsworth

Fothergill Trophy: ARCTIC TERN (TB)—Bryan Dodsworth

Awards of Garden Commendation:

HIGH PEAK (TB)—Bryan Dodsworth

ELIZABETH POLDARK (TB)—Bob Nichol

DEMELZA (TB)—Bob Nichol

MISS CARLA (IB)—John Taylor

R.H.S. AWARDS TO AMERICAN IRISES, 1987

Award of Merit: FLAMENCO (TB)—Keppel

Highly Commended: SULTAN'S PALACE (TB)—Schreiners

Selected for Trial:

(TB)—HOT LINE, TITAN'S GLORY, OLYMPIC CHALLENGE
(all Schreiners)

MOROCCO (Keppel)

SUN KING (Stahly)

(SIB)-DEAR DIANNE, LADY OF QUALITY, RUFFLES PLUS
(all McEwen)

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The 1987 Median Season In Massachusetts

Lucy Burton, Hamilton, Massachusetts

Early spring in Massachusetts was colder and wetter than usual, followed by an unexpected snow storm at the end of April. The spring cold and snow caused quite a bit of blossom damage, and more than the occasional "extra parts" to the blooms. Many things bloomed short, making evaluation of new plantings difficult. However, the SDBs bloomed profusely. Most of the troubles came on the plants blooming later in the season, but we did have our normal glorious weather during most of the median bloom season.

Standard Dwarfs

Three of the nicest first year plants were Sterling Innerst's NARNIA and LOFTY, and SUN DOLL (B. Jones '86). SUN DOLL is bright yellow with lovely form, and put up two bloom stalks even though it wasn't planted until September. NARNIA is a "HOODWINK" pattern, the violet being darker and the brown wash lighter. Also the wash is solid instead of separate veins. It went from a single fan to eight fans and four bloomstalks, which is fantastic for an SDB in our area. LOFTY has very subtle colors, lavender with brown shoulders on the falls which almost encircled the beards. It is described as having a red violet spot, but was more purple here.

The best of our established plants included EYEBRIGHT (voted the favorite in our garden on the Iris Society of Massachusetts median tour), THIRD CHARM, THRICE BLESSED, WILLOW MIST, GREEN SPOT, GRAPESICLE, SILVER RAIN, LITTLE EPISODE, SAPPHIRE GEM, SOFT AIR, CANDY APPLE, ICE CHALET, PEACH BAVARIAN and ROSY AIR.

Intermediates

RARE EDITION opened the day after the tour, but then a great many people grow it in Massachusetts, so it can be easily seen. It's a favorite IB in our garden. CON BRIO (Warburton) and COLORADO GOLD (Lyons) are also favorites. IN THE BUFF, SWIZZLE, PONY and VOILA did very well as usual. HOT FUDGE had been divided the year before, and was late, but its dark brown over yellow gives unusual colors to the garden. Speaking of unusual, Keppel's LOGO certainly is. I would term it as raspberry plic markings on mottled orange. It had two bloomstalks side by side. I can't wait to see it in a full clump and get the effect. HONEY GLAZED (Niswonger) was also a first year plant, and I can now understand all the raves I've heard.

Borders

JUST JENNIFER (J. D. Taylor) did very well on its first year. It also brings up—again—the question of classification. Registered with AIS as a border, as obviously that is its bloom season in England, here it bloomed with the early IBs. Genetically it is certainly IB: SDB X TB. A ruffled white self, it looks like a taller BIBURY (minus the yellow hafts) which is its SDB parent.

The best BB news in our garden was the performance of SOFT SPOKEN, Perry Dyer's coral bearded lavender. It has struggled in both spots where it is planted, and tried to leave us for several years, but this spring decided that it was "showtime" and really performed. We weren't the only area garden with this experience. We hope it continues to perform as well. MISS NELLIE (Burch) and MARMALADE SKIES (Niswonger) grew the best for us. We have grown MISS NELLIE since 1983, and it has bloomed and increased well every year, always staying in size.

Miniature Talls

The star of the MTB season was Terry Varner's VALIANT WARRIOR. It bloomed for the first time on a second year plant and exploded. It is listed as M-L for season of bloom, but here it started with the late SDBs and continued in bloom for a full three and a half weeks. A second clump in a more shaded area had a "normal" MTB clump, but we have taken some increase off the first plant to prevent it spreading into its neighbors. It is listed as dusky purple, more a glowing red violet in our soil, with bright yellow beards, blue at the lower end. The spathes are shaded purple, another interesting note.

The other star was ABRIDGED VERSION (Hager), which is an improved version of its parent, PUPPY LOVE. Don't we all wish we could get that much advance in a single generation. Certainly a study of the pedigree reveals all the work that went into developing the 48c (tetraploidy) in the first place. A fantastic plant must be the source of elation after so much patient effort.

First year bloom was good on NEW WAVE (Hager), ROSEMARY'S DREAM, BABY BIBS (Dunderman), and TYKE (Warburton). GINGER COOKIE (Terrill) and LITTLE PAUL (Fisher) put up interesting single stalks. CAROLYN ROSE (Dunderman) and TOPSY TURVY (Welch) had good second year bloom.

Aril-Medians

CANASTA (Rich) had its usual heavy bloom and SUNDORA (Gadd) was a good second year plant. The aril-medians vary the most from season to season depending on our summer rainfall. They prefer the drier summers and this past summer encouraged them. The aril-medians in the 1989 MEDIAN MUSTER bed are following the same pattern, as these plants are showing the best growth.



A sea of GRAPESICLE in the Burton garden.

IRISES WINNING HIGH COMMENDATION, 1987

TALL BEARDED

VOTES

BLODGETT, A. 6 81-15 6 81-16	KEPPEL, K. 13 RUSTLER (81-95B)
BOYD, M. 8 78-21-1	LYONS, R. 7 BLUSHING LADY
BYERS, M. 8 C80-22 7 C87-10	NELSON, R. 13 TANG (RN82-67-F) 12 RN82-8F 6 CHAMPAGNE AND CAVIAR (RN82-9A) 5 EXITATION (RN82-95A)
CLAUSSEN, C. 6 80-61A	PROTZMANN, C. 7 84-28 6 77-12
HOAGE, J. 10 H80-5A	RODERICK, E. 8 8506 5 8301-B
HUMMEL, J. 7 JH80-20L	ROGERS, F. 9 YOUR DESIRE (F215F)
INNERST, S. 10 POINT MADE (1976-10) 6 2333-10	SCHREINERS 5 S324-1
JOHNSON, R. 8 R-74	SLADE, G. 5 81-14-1
KEGERISE, EL. 6 107-84	STEVENS, S. 6 DOROTHY PALMER
KEGERISE, EV. 8 80-145-10 6 83-432-1	WILLOTT, A. & D. 6 84-196 5 86-89

VOTES

BORDER BEARDED

LYONS, R.

6 ARTESIAN LADY

WILLOTT, A. & D.

6 83-119

6 83-120

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

BLODGETT, R.

8 I-18-83

WILLOTT, A. & D.

6 84-155

5 86-9

5 86-69

ARILBRED

DANIELSON, L.

5 BRONZE FALCON
(GL-J-2)

5 LAVENDER LEMON
(GL-J-80)

SIBERIAN

HOLLINGWORTH, R.

11 82J2B18

5 82F3C18

WILLOTT, A. & D.

6 86-87

5 86-75

JAPANESE

DIENSTBACH, M.

5 12A

5 13

INNERST, S.

5 JOCASTA (1547-1)

**STANDARD DWARF
BEARDED**

ANDERSON, D.

5 51-29

WILLOTT, A. & D.

7 83-30

6 84-81A

5 84-37

**MINIATURE DWARF
BEARDED**

BLODGETT, R.

7 D23-83D

MACHULAK, A.

7 4480-1

7 121-80-29

WILLOTT, A. & D.

6 79-13

6 83-51

5 WEE FOLK

LOUISIANA

CHENOWETH, V.

12 ROYAL LASS (V-LR-2)

DOPKE, B.

13 ACDP-83-4

SPURIA

NISWONGER, D.

12 21-78

ROWLAN, H.

6 75SP-1

WALKER/ABREGO

5 SWW-90-B

WICKENKAMP, F.

8 SP-83-1

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22 BLUEBERRY RIMMED
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12 JAPANESE SANDMAN
(G. BUSH)

HONORABLE MENTION (JA)

VOTES

33 GRAPE FIZZ
(W. ACKERMAN)
21 WINE RUFFLES
(W. ACKERMAN)
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(C. McEWEN)
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12 RUFFLED DIMITY
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IN MEMORIAM

Ila Crawford (1910-1987)

By Genevieve E. Followwill

"Ila Crawford, age 77, long-time Oklahoma City resident, died in a local hospital July 8, 1987, after an extended illness. She was a member of the American Iris Society and very active in other garden clubs in the Oklahoma City area."

That was what the newspaper printed, but to those who knew her, there is so much more to be said. We of the Oklahoma Iris Society will long remember Ila Crawford.

Ila helped organize the Apogon Iris Unit of the Federated Garden Clubs of Oklahoma City in November 1948. She served as President of the Club in 1953, 1954 and 1955. She served as its President again in 1985, 1986, and 1987.

Ila was life member in the American Iris Society, the Oklahoma State Federated Garden Clubs, the Spuria Iris Society Section of the American Iris Society, and the National Federated Garden Clubs. She was President of the

Spuria Iris Society in 1969 and also assisted with the revision of the Judges Handbook at that time. She was the Spuria Iris Society's Bulletin Representative from 1971-1977. She did some of the excerpting of the spuria irises from the publications of the American Iris Society in the preparation of the Spuria Iris Checklist published by the Spuria Iris Society. She was very active in the Oklahoma Iris Society and a member of the Sooner State Iris Society. She was a Master Judge for the American Iris Society and for the Federated Garden Clubs.

Ila enjoyed a good time and attended most of the American Iris Society Conventions since 1953. Elizabeth Stanley was her travel buddy on these trips and she says they missed very few from Memphis in 1958 to Phoenix in 1987. Ila did her last judging May 2, 1987, at the Midwest City Oklahoma Flower Show.

Mary Williamson (1909- 1987)

Mary Williamson, hybridizer and member of a prominent iris family, died recently at the age of 78 in her hometown of Bluffton, Indiana.

She was the daughter of E.B. (Bruce) Williamson, for whom, with Alice White, the Williamson-White Award for MTB's is named. Mary worked alongside her father at their Longfield Iris Farm in Bluffton, first assisting him by making crosses that he had planned and later taking part in the planning herself. After his death in 1933, she assumed full charge of the Iris Farm, introducing WABASH, the landmark purple and white amoena TB, in 1936. WABASH, an ancestor of many present day irises, was awarded the Dykes Medal in 1940, and remained on the AIS Popularity Poll through the mid-1960's.

It was at Longfield Iris Farm that E.B. Williamson, Mary Williamson and Ethel Peckham first noticed, among the rows of TB seedlings, some "runts" which Mary described as having "perfect balance throughout the whole plant." Mrs. Peckham suggested the name Table Iris, recognizing their usefulness as cut flowers. The Williamsons selected several for further study, Mary introducing the first of the series in 1934.

Mary recognized the old TOM TIT (Bliss 1919) as fitting the Table Iris standards as set up by the Williamsons and Mrs. Peckham, and she used it in her experimental hybridizing to produce WIDGET, a white dotted lavender plicata which ranks as the most used parent among MTB's.

Among the MTB's introduced by the Williamsons were PEWEE, TITMOUSE, SISKIN, PLAYBOY and KINGLET (1943) WARBLER (1935), CHEWINK (1937), DAYSTAR (1941), WIDGET (1943) and NAMBE (1946). PEWEE, the first winner of the Williamson-White Award, is the type designated by the Median Iris Society for the MTB class.

Bernice R. Roe 1898-1987

By Bryce Williamson

Bernice R. Roe of San Jose, California, hybridizer of tall bearded and spuria irises and former RVP of Region 14, died on July 11, 1987 at the age of 89.

She was a co-founder of the Clara B. Rees Iris Society, and RVP from 1965-1967. She was appointed an Honorary Judge in 1970, and was a life member of AIS.

Her hybridizing was begun in the 1950's, but it was not until 1965 that she introduced her first variety, SUNSET BLUES (HC '63 and '64, HM '65). Among her other popular TB introductions, SUNSET SKY (HC '68, HM '71) won the Primo Firenze at Florence, Italy in 1974. MONEY (HM '77) a bright yellow suffused with gold and bearing a small cream area beneath the self beard, has been a popular TB iris, still listed in many catalogs.

Bernice was intrigued by the idea of breeding green and green amoena irises. TAFFY TWIST (HM '68) was her only introduction resulting from her work on green; it is described as a pale barium yellow with a greenish cast and gold-green at hafts.

Her first green amoena introduction, after twenty years of work, was VERNAL FALLS (HM '75) with cool white standards and uranium green (HCC 63/3) falls. Its pedigree involved Majestic Swan X ((Char-Maize x Appointee) x "new" green amoena, tracing back to Char-Maize, Summit and Pinnacle) x (Cool Valley x green seedlings tracing to Char-Maize, Summit and Pinnacle. Bernice kept all her early breeding records on garden tags, so the exact lineage of the green amoenas is not known. Her best-formed green amoena, IRISH SPRING (HM '74) was introduced next, followed by her final introduction, MISTY MOONSCAPE (HM '80.)

Among the better known Roe Spurias were BURNISHED BRASS, CHARM-GLOW, FOUNTAINFLOW, DISTANT THUNDER, GENTRY, MEDALLION and FOREVER YOUNG, all HM winners in the 1970's.

WANTED

Several people are working together to establish Memorial Gardens in memory of Mrs. Jeannette Nelson, former RVP of Region 11. A number of her earlier introductions are needed, including: GEM STATE, ATMOSPHERE, CALL ME MADAM, MY MISSION, ROYAL HALO, et al. If you have these or others of her introductions, please contact:

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Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

Youth Poetry Contest

Our thanks to Region 4 and especially Clarence Mahan for sharing this iris poetry with us. The following two poems were the winners in an iris poetry contest for the 7th grade English class at Rocky Run Intermediate School in Chantilly, Virginia. The winners each received an iris rhizome with cultural instructions and youth memberships in AIS.

This is an idea some other regions might like to try. At least the results are pleasant for the rest of us to read. Let's see what two of our new youth members have to say about a lovely purple iris . . .

Rays of Sun Shining

Rays of sun shining
Down on a purple Iris
Oh! So beautiful

A raindrop falls down
From the sky so high above
The Iris shivers

A white butterfly
Fluttering towards the Iris
But it cannot move

A large gust of wind
The Iris sways to and fro
It all is calm now

Ole man winter comes
The Iris withers and dies
Soon it will be back

Kayt Neall, Age 12

The Purple Iris

In the spring the wind blows softly,
the grass sways to and fro
but the only thing that attracts my
eye is the purple iris
standing in the grass alone.

The dew in the morning glistens
on the leaves while the sun
rises from the back.
The purple in the petals and
the green in the leaves shine
throughout the field and sway
as the wind passes the purple iris.

The sun shines brightly on the little
purple iris and forms a gold
colored outline around the
petals and leaves.

The purple iris shines throughout
the field like no other flower there.

Akane Orlandella, Age 12

Videos?

With outside garden chores at a minimum, winter seems the ideal time to plan for the coming year's activities. The Youth Committee has a couple of videos available to loan out. "Get Ready, Get Set, Grow" is a 15 minute video of a kid's guide to good gardening. Produced by the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens it and the accompanying two handbooks are filled with youthful gardening ideas.

Maybe you'd rather be making your own video instead of just looking at one. In that case the youth members of the Elmohr Iris Society have donated their own video to share with you. Watching the video they made during last year's iris bloom may give you ideas for making your own this year.

Both videocassettes are VHS format and are available to check out from the Youth Committee Chairman. Just write in your request and the date you'd like to have them. Happy Viewing!





Ken and Agnes Waite: ***An Iris Team***

Ken and Aggie Waite, husband and wife for 49 years, know the value of teamwork, and have extended their partnership into the iris world. Ken has been Chairman of the AIS Awards Committee for the past nine years, and Aggie has been his chief committee member. They count ballots together, and double-check each other's work. It may seem like a tedious job, but Ken maintains it can be very exciting, especially if there is a close race in one of the categories. Then they anticipate each day's mail arrival to see how the votes will swing.

They also conduct judges' training sessions as a team. This has been working out very well, Ken says, because if one of them forgets to mention a point, the other one can add it. Taking turns speaking gives each one a chance to better formulate his thoughts. The discussion format makes the session more lively and interesting—two voices are better than one! The Waites have conducted sessions for Region I and Region II, on Awards and Ballots, Duties and Responsibilities of Judges, and an in-garden training at their own home. Here, after the Waites discussed garden judging, the trainees were asked to form small groups to evaluate the irises in the garden as if they were all eligible for the Dykes Medal, and to choose one for the Dykes. The groups that were able to arrive at a consensus were then asked to defend their choice. It was a stimulating afternoon!

One thing seems to lead to another for Ken and Agnes. They became enthralled by irises together in the mid-1950's when visiting the home and iris garden of a friend of Aggie's. The friend showed Ken how to hybridize and soon after, Ken was hybridizing in his own garden. Aggie still grows Ken's first seedling from 1957, a blue TB with brown on the shoulders. "Of course I didn't introduce it," says Ken, but Aggie says proudly, "It was really very good for its time, and could have been introduced." In 1958 Ken joined AIS, Aggie joining soon afterwards.

Ken has been hybridizing continuously since that first 1957 seedling, but it was not until 1981, at the urging of Fred Gadd, that he registered and introduced his first irises: the TB's LORD JEFF and POPS CONCERT and the SDB, DASHAWAY. POPS CONCERT, a heavily ruffled and flaring dark violet self, with 9-10 buds (conservatively) and sometimes with 17 buds, was awarded the President's Cup at the 1983 Boston Convention. BELLE OF AMHERST and HARBOR MIST followed, registered and introduced in 1983.

BELLE OF AMHERST, a TB that Ken introduced only after it won HCs two years in a row, and at the urging of many iris friends, led to further iris adventures for the Waites. This peachy-apricot and white confection, always popular with visitors, is a "good garden iris," in Aggie's estimation, and was named for the poet Emily Dickinson who lived in nearby Amherst.

A few years ago the Waites gave some irises to Amherst College, including, of course, several rhizomes of BELLE OF AMHERST. Emily Dickinson's family home had been bequeathed to Amherst College, and when the Dickinson gardens were refurbished a couple of years ago, clumps of the BELLE were planted there by the college. The popularity of BELLE OF AMHERST with tourists in Amherst led a writer for New England Monthly magazine to interview Ken and Aggie about their irises. The ensuing magazine article brought more journalists to their door, and they now have three newspaper articles and a segment of the Springfield, Mass. Channel 22 TV evening newscast to their credit.

Their most recent iris-related adventure was constructing a display booth for the Eastern States Exposition, held annually in Springfield each September. Called "The Big E," the exposition is a combined state fair for all six New England states, with nearly a million visitors. The theme of the 1987 Big E was the Bicentennial of the Constitution, so Aggie sewed bunting of red, white and blue for their display table and placed an American flag in the corner of the booth. The Waite's AIS booth was given an Award of Merit and a lovely rosette for carrying out the exposition's theme. If there is a swell in Region I's membership this year, it will probably be due to the Waites' efforts.

Is it easy to interview Ken Waite? It's always easy to talk to Ken about AIS and irises. But interview . . . "You don't want to interview me. People don't want to read about me." What if I interview you AND Aggie? Well, ok, he says, brightening a little, but with a trace of hesitation in his soft, calm voice. Well, tell me about how you first joined AIS . . . and from there on out, it's easy listening all the way.



Aggie and Ken Waite with AIS display at Eastern States Exposition.



Judges' training in the Waites' garden.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual	\$ 9.50	Sustaining	\$20.00
Triennial	23.75	Research	47.50
Family	11.50	Life	190.00
Family Triennial	28.50	Family Life	237.50
Youth Member, with others of family as members			2.00
Youth Members, with no others of family as members			3.25

SECTION MEMBERSHIP RATES

	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Irises	2.50	6.50	3.00	7.50
Spuria Iris Society	3.00	7.00	3.50	8.00
Society for Japanese Irises	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00
Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group of North America	3.50	9.00	4.50	10.50
Louisiana Iris Society of America	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00

Membership in AIS sections is open to all AIS members. Payment may be made directly to the Section, or may be made payable to the American Iris Society and sent to AIS Membership Secretary, Carol Ramsey, 6518 Beachy Ave., Wichita, KS 67206

American Iris Society Conventions

1988	Oklahoma City, OK	May 3-7
1989	Memphis, TN	April 29-May 3
1990	Omaha, NE	May 27-31
1991	Washington, DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994		
1995	Pennsylvania	



At Pope's Perennials, preparations for SJI 1990 Convention.

OTHER CONVENTIONS

Society for Japanese Irises

1988—Kalamazoo, MI July 1-3	1990—Maine
1989—Washington, DC June	1991—Oregon/Washington
	1994—Portland, OR

Median Iris Society

1989—"Median Muster" Boston, MA May 19-21

Iris Society of Australia

1988—Sidney/Melbourne Oct. 20-29

Thirty Years Ago . . .

The 1958 Symposium of the Median Iris Society

Joseph A. Gatty

We, of the Median Iris Society, are proud to present our first symposium. Perhaps the reason for this pride in a job well done is the fact that if it were not for the cooperation, the enthusiasm, and the interest displayed by the members to this project their list of Median favorites could not have been compiled. We are indeed grateful for this cooperation.

A Median Symposium at this time is important for many and varied reasons. It will enable our members to know the favorites of today among Standard Dwarfs, the Intermediates, the Miniature Talls, and the Border Irises. It will serve as a purchasing guide for some; as an indicator of varietal merit to others; as a valuable chart of variety opinion to all. It will indicate all the good things in Median Irises, past, present, and future, that are the fruits of originality.

We hope that this symposium will serve the purpose for which it is intended. That of bringing to the attention of all iris growers the best in the classes of irises sponsored by the Median Society.

Standard Dwarfs

VARIETY	ORIGINATOR	VOTES
Fairy Flax	Cook	19
Green Spot	Cook	19
Baria	Cook	16
Garnet Treasure	Douglas	10
Lilliput	Douglas	6
Pogo	Douglas	6
Brite	Cook	5
Pagan Midget	Douglas	5
Small Wonder	Douglas	5
Tinkerbell	Douglas	4

Intermediates

Blue Asterisk	Greenlee	7
Cloud Fluff	Greenlee	6
Eleanor Roosevelt	H.P. Sass	4
Zua	Crawford	3
Allah	Doriot	2
August Waves	P. Brown	2

Florinda	Cook	2
Golden Bow	H.P. Sass	2
Ruby Glow	Schreiner	2
Southland	H.P. Sass	2

Miniature Talls

Pewee	Williamson	14
Tom Tit	Bliss	12
Widget	Williamson	8
Daystar	Williamson	6
Warbler	Williamson	5
Kinglet	Williamson	4
Two For Tea	Auten	4
Sherwin-Wright	Kohankie	3
Kaleidoscope	Katkamier	3
Bunting	Williamson	2

Border Irises

Pink Ruffles	Smith	11
Billet Doux	Douglas	9
Black Forest	Schreiner	6
Gay Hussar	Williamson	3
Silver Charm	Craig	3
Spring Idyl	Lapham	2
Dorothea	Caparne	2
Pearl Cup	Knowlton	2
Chewink	Williamson	2
Friscoette	Hillson	2

Reprinted from *The Median*, Vol. 1, 1958.)

The Median Iris Society has continued its tradition of an annual symposium. Gene Tremmel, the current Symposium Chairman, has recently expanded it to include a printed ballot for the convenience of members. In addition to the four median classes, we also vote on our favorite arilmedians. The latest median symposium will be published in the Spring 1988 Medianite. It is noteworthy that some medians listed in the 1958 symposium, albeit 'antiques,' are still grown in our gardens and are still used by hybridizers.

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EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1987

Emma C. Hobbs, Chairman

Of the 167 shows that were approved for the 1987 iris season, 147 reported their results, 14 shows were cancelled (the weather did a wipeout in several areas), and 8 shows did not report. Many shows were reported to be excellent, others could have wished for kinder weather conditions for more superior exhibitions. Some that were not pleased with their horticultural exhibits seemed to have a greater number of artistic exhibits. Whatever the individual problems may have been, another fine job of presenting the iris to the populace was accomplished . . . and isn't that really the name of the game?

Region 14 reported the highest number of shows (17) held. Following in second place was Region 18 with 15 shows and in third place was Region 6 with 13.

VANITY took undisputed first place for the Nelson Award by winning top honors in five shows; two of them in Region 7 and 1 each in Regions 4, 17 and 24. Runners up with 4 shows each were SONG OF NORWAY and TITAN'S GLORY. SKATING PARTY had 3 wins and BEVERLY SILLS, CLIFFS OF DOVER, EASTERTIME, FARAWAY BLUE, HEAVENLY ANGELS, MUTED MELODY, PICAYUNE, RARE EDITION and TWILIGHT GLOW followed with two each.

Region 4 received approval for the reported two Fall Shows for the reblooming iris.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY SHOWS—1987

PLACE OF SHOW	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	The Moors	The Whites	Cup Race	The Moors
New Haven, CT	Carl G. Schulz	Corte Staff	Wabash	Cari Schulz
South Paris, ME	The Hazeltons	Shirley Pope	Queen's Pawn (SDB)	Peter Young
Waltham, MA	Barbara Roberts	Tom/Alice Schaefer	Snowcrest (SIB)	Tom/Alice Schaefer
REGION 2				
Buffalo, NY	Greg Schifferli	Anna Rettig	Sterling Prince	Anna Rettig
Cicero, NY	Carl O'Shea	Jim/Lillian Gristwood	I. versicolor	Dana Borglum
REGION 3				
Hanover, PA	Harold L. Griffie	Larry Westfall	Song of Norway	Larry Westfall
Harrisburg, PA	Sterling Innerst	Clarence Mahan	Frostbound (JA)	Sara Senft
Kennet Square, PA	Mrs. Grant Kegerise	Larry/Joy Westfall	Current Image	Mrs. Grant Kegerise
Pittsburgh, PA	John Baron	George Gerhardt	Titan's Glory	John Baron
York, PA	Sterling Innerst	Harold Goshorn	Sky Hooks	Sterling Innerst
REGION 4				
Charlotte, NC	Katharine Steele	B. J. Brown	Arctic Dawn	Katharine Steele
Easton, MD	Richard Kleen	Mary Etta Brightman	Vanity	Richard Kleen
Hendersonville, NC	Joe/I. V. Summey	Walter Hoover	Muted Melody	Flossie Nelson
Lightfoot, VA	Louise Smith	Roger/Sue Glasshoff	Theatre	Ruth Walker
Raleigh, NC	J. D. Stadler	Alice Bouldin	Idol's Dream	Alice Bouldin
Roanoke, VA	Victor Layman	Millie Trent	Skating Party	Betty Kidd
Towson, MD	M/M J. Owings	Mrs. Andrew Warner	Song of Norway	Mrs. Andrew Warner
Washington, D.C.	Clarence Mahan	Richard Sparling	Spinning Wheel	Richard Sparling
Washington, D.C.	Clarence Mahan	Carol Warner	Wine Ruffles (JA)	Clarence Mahan
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	Pat Johnson	Emily Wheeler	Cream Taffeta	Pat Johnson
Decatur, GA	Harry Turner	Laura/Maurice Lewis	Go Around	Harry Turner
Milledgeville, GA	Emily Wheeler	Thomas M. Godwin	Smoke Ring	Juanita/Earnest Yearwood
Spartanburg, SC	Everette Lineberger	John Wood	Brown Lasso (BB)	Everette Lineberger
Summerville, SC	John Woods	Mrs. Virginia Rowland	Icy Peaks (JA)	Mrs. Pat Brooks

REGION 6

Akron, OH	Anthony/Dorothy Willott	Wilford James	Spring Tracery (SDB)	Anthony/Dorothy Willott
Cleveland, OH	Tony/Dorothy Willott	Tony Szegedi	Pink Confetti	Tony Szegedi
Columbus, OH	Earl Hall	Mrs. Howard Warrell	Silver Edge (SIB)	Mrs. Howard Warrell
Fort Wayne, IN	Roger/Lynda Miller	Ralph/Ruth Tews	Faraway Blue	Roger/Lynda Miller
Grand Rapids, MI	Framar Gardens	Carol Kerr	Dixie Pixie (SDB)	Framar Gardens
Grand Rapids, MI	Framar Gardens	Doris DeHaan	Carved Marble	Doris DeHaan
Indianapolis, IN	Rosalie Stam	Doris Winton	Visual Arts	Rosalie Stam
Lansing, MI	Ruth Esper	Richard Ferris	Stepping Out	Virginia Maynard
Mansfield, OH	Mrs. Howard Warrell	Yvonne Beegle	Tufted Cloud	Chuck Ridenour
Mio, MI	Nelson Yoder	Art Cronin	Mio Caro	Nelson Yoder
Muncie, IN	Roger/Lynda Miller	Douglas Clarke	Faraway Blue	Roger/Lynda Miller
Pontiac, MI	Donna Calhoun	Shirley Kindermann	Modern Classic	Shirley Kindermann
Portage, MI	Ensata Garden	Anna Mae Miller	Numazu (JA)	Ensata Garden

REGION 7

Bowling Green, KY	James Bingham	Thelma Lamb	Skating Party	Brenda Ryan
Jackson, TN	Evie Lou Spencer	Bob Love	Flip Side	Scott Cohen
Lebanon, TN	Thelma Lamb	Regina Crutchfield	Song of Norway	Regina Crutchfield
Lewisburg, TN	Hilda Crick	Mrs. Frank Tree	Southern Comfort	Mitchel Wright
Lexington, KY	Albert C. Dierckes	Jeff VanLandingham	Lucy's Pride	Ed Roberts
Louisville, KY	Sheldon Butt	Gladys Buie	Vanity	Bob Ammerman
Memphis, TN	Lottie Lough	Mary Ann Collins	Silkwood	Jim Russell
Memphis, TN	Jim Russell	Michelle Sowell	Beverly Sills	Michelle Sowell
Murfreesboro, TN	Robert/Dean Daniel	M/M James Nelson	Eastertime	M/M James Nelson
Nashville, TN	Inez Turns	Garland Ryan	Vanity	Mrs. Donald King

REGION 8

Chanhausen, MN	Inga Hempel	W. G. Sindt	Little Black Belt (SDB)	W. G. Sindt
Greendale, WI	Sandra J. Lemmer	Royal O. Johnson	Roundup	Margaret Bohn
Greendale, WI	Evelyn Johnson	Fred Jahnke	Martha Mia (AR)	Edward A. Boese
Madison, WI	Edward Boese	Carolee Clay	Starring Role	Floyd Nichols
Roseville, MN	Inga Hempel	Mary Duvall	Apache Rose	Inga Hempel

REGION 9

Alton, IL	Sheldon Butt	Roy Bohrer	Neptune's Pool	Sheldon Butt
Freeport, IL	Richard Freund	Jo Ann Merceer	Heavenly Angels	Fred Spahn
Glencoe, IL	Sandra Lemmer	Virginia Winkler	I. fulva (LA)	Russell A. Hintz
Hillside, IL	Donovan Albers	Charles J. Simon	Rare Edition (IB)	Donovan Albers
Lombard, IL	C. J. Simon	S. Smith	Superstition	C. J. Simon

REGION 10

Lafayette, LA	Rusty Ostheimer	Dorman Haymon	Uralba Gold (LA)	Jos. K. Mertzweiler
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REGION 11

Missoula, MT	Jack Weber	Ken/Rosemary Baier	Queen of Hearts	Eleanor McCulloch
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REGION 12

Salt Lake City, UT	Charlotte Easter	Alan Toronto	Song of Norway	Charlotte Easter
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REGION 13

Portland, OR	Kay Kudi	Wava Ludi	Pretty Miss (SDB)	Wava Ludi
Portland, OR	Kay Ludi	Joanne Derr	Sun King (BB)	Kay Ludi
Portland, OR	Terry Aitken	Chad Harris	Flying Tiger (JA)	Chad Harris
Richland, WA	Lyle Fort	Deloris Moller	Easter Time	Kyle Fort
Seattle, WA	Kirkland Iris Garden	Sigrid Asmus	Miss Nellie (BB)	Kirkland Iris Garden
Spokane, WA	Norma Lunden	Frances Carter	Mission Ridge	Fred Schneiden
Tacoma, WA	Deane Wood	Elvin Van Slyke	Beverly Sills	Mrs. Ted. Lind
Walla Walla, WA	Delores Moller	Don Marley	West Coast	Don Marley

REGION 14

Capitola, CA	Joseph Ghio	Lois Belardi	Winning Note	Lois Belardi
Chico, CA	J. F. Coon	Cloudia Owen	Wine and Roses	Wayne/Marge Bany
Concord, CA	ALL SEEDLING SHOW (no awards except for Exhibition Certificate)			
Fresno, CA	John Weiler	Bill Tyson	Broadway	Ed Matheny
Garberville, CA	Roger/Kristi Clark	Stephen Wells	Matinata	Roger/Kristi Clark
Hanford, CA	Bill Tyson	Ed Matheny III	Danger	Delores Bates
Las Vegas, NV	Berkeley Hunt	M/M Arnold Todd	Picayune (BB)	Berkeley Hunt
Los Altos, CA	Lois Belardi	Gigi Hall	Blue Staccato	Lois Belardi
Newark, CA	Gigi Hall	Joe Ghio	Praline	Gigi Hall
Oakland, CA	Gigi Hall	Alan Robbins	Chuckles	Joe Ghio
Redding, CA	Albert Bryceson	Georgia Macim	Well Endowed	Lonnie Surett
Redding, CA	Carole Vossen	Vera Stanley	I. tectorum	Carole Vossen
Sacramento, CA	Walter/Alene Dean	Joyce Ragle	Muchas Gracias	Walter/Alene Dean
Santa Rosa, CA	Sandy Senchuk	Vic Briody	George's Gorgeous	Vic Briody
	Crandall	(CA)		
Ukiah, CA	George Sutton	Joanne McGrew	Blue Pennant (SIB)	Jean Near
Visalia, CA	Dolores Bates	Fran Weiler	Blue Rhythm	Ed Matheny III
Walnut Creek, CA	Alan Robbins	Glenn Corlew	Pinkeva (AB)	Alan Robbins

REGION 15

Arcadia, CA	Peter DeSantis	Duncan Eader	Love Flight (AB)	Peter DeSantis
Arcadia, CA	George Sherman	Gloria Selby	Rhett (LA)	George Sherman
Riverside, CA	Cal-Dixie Iris Garden	Hamner's	Gemini (BB)	Cal-Dixie Iris Gardens
San Diego, CA	Peg McCroskey	Dorothy Driscoll	Imperial Sun (SPU)	Eleanor McCown
Tucson, AZ	Jim Sinski	Leslie Follett	Heather Blush	Gary Carruthers
Woodland Hills, CA	Peter DeSantis	Myrna Hood	Titan's Glory	Bill Rinehart

REGION 17

Amarillo, TX	Marie Glovier	Catherine Jones	Holy Night	Jo Hearn
Belton, TX	Fadine Hanna	Lorraine Johnson	Temple Gold	Lorraine Johnson
Dallas, TX	Marie Caillet	Dorothy Evans	Vanity	Dorothy Evans
El Paso, TX	Ray Meier	M/M Garth Riddler	Heart Stealer (AB)	M/M Garth Riddler
Fort Worth, TX	Charles Hunter	Peggy Williams	Twilight Glow	B. F. Christenson

Fort Worth, TX Lubbock, TX Midland, TX New Braunfels, TX Sherman, TX Sherman, TX Waco, TX	Peggy Williams M/M Felix West Janet Newton Dr. W. Clyde Ikins Bill/Grace Milam Helen Hicks Hazel Haik	Patsy Rosen Marjorie Manning Sue/Jim Keefe Kenneth Triesch Milly/Randolph Hall Gordon Green W. C. Haynes	Supermanuel I. pseudacorus Post Time Skating Party Picayune (BB) Heavenly Angels Twilight Glow	Bill Powell Mrs. Ocie Patton Janet Newton Dr. W. Clyde Ikins Grace/Bill Milam Helen Hicks Hazel Haik
REGION 18 Clayton, MO Dodge City, KS Garden City, KS Garden City, KS Hutchinson, KS Jefferson, City, MO	Sheldon Butt Jonel Bell Dale Smith Wanda Smith Pat Dixon Al Apscher	James W. Morris Bob Preston Wanda Smith Dale Smith Nellye Drake Vivian Hedgecock	Fall In Line (AB) Titan's Glory Hocus Pocus (SDB) Vitafire Tranquility Concord Cafe (MTB)	Ann/Riley Probst Jonel Bell Dale Smith Dale Smith Saundra Srimm Eric/Bob Tankesley-Clarke
Joplin, MO Kansas City, MO Parsons, KS Saint Ann, MO	John Gass Jim Hedgecock Lee Robbins Don Delmez	Florence Brower Mary Jean McHugh John Sullivan Roy Bohrer	Rondo Loop the Loop Metaphor Japanese Hand Drum (JA)	John Gass Betty Wyss Lee Robbins Don Delmez
St. Charles, MO St. Louis, MO Selden, KS Selden, KS Wichita, KS	Sheldon Butt Sheldon Butt Irma Torrey Thelma Kemp J. Ray Jarrell	Riley Probst James W. Morris Thelma Kemp Mary Heisz Claude Evans	Metallic Blue Gigolo I. bucharica Cliffs of Dover Winter Ballet	Patrick Martin* James W. Morris Irma Torrey Alice Franklin Chris Taggart
REGION 19 Princeton, NJ	Chun Fan	James Mullen	Flamenco	Chun Fan
REGION 20 Colorado Springs, CO Denver, CO	John/Jeri Knudtson Ray Lyons	Donald D. Morgan M/M Bud McCarthy	Skier's Delight Monarch's Robe	Donald D. Morgan Hazel Warner
REGION 21 Lincoln, NE Norfolk, NE Omaha, NE	Gayle Jensen Marjorie Jansen Jim Ennenga	Gene Kalkwarf Don Peterson Richard Kohout	Classics God Bless Dorothea K. Williamson (LA)	Connell Marsh Orval Roach Ruth Ennenga
Scottsbluff, NE Sioux City, IA Sioux Falls, SD	Viola Schreiner Dennis Wolf Charles Claussen	Shirley Fauver Evelyn Meins Gene Gaddie	Cliffs of Dover Titan's Glory Rain Country	Freda Eckhardt Mary Lotz Charles Claussen
REGION 22 Altus, OK Enid, OK Hot Springs, AR	William/Jackie Parker Fred Spellman Charlotte/Jim Bledsoe	Annetta Reusch Starlene Rauh Bruce Richards	Beverly Sills Frivolity Muted Melody	Randy Raley Jaunite McCubbins Josie Green
Lawton, OK Norman, OK Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK	Ruth Simmons Bill Pappan Perry Parrish Harold Plato	Chris Waltermire Ted Thompson Paul Black Genevieve E. Followwill	Joyce Terry New Kinda Love Paradise Kimberlina	Chris Waltermire Ted Thompson Perry Parrish Bob/Jean Watts
Tulsa, OK	Dorothy C. Howard	Cleo Cox	Perfect Interlude	Dorothy C. Howard
REGION 23 Albuquerque, NM Albuquerque, NM Albuquerque, NM Las Cruces, NM Santa Fe, NM	E. Irene Shockey Sara Doonan Irene Shockey Maxine Perkins Larry Anaya	H. G. Shockey Valerie White Howard Shockey Luella Danielson Betty Gonzales	Rare Edition (IB) Pacific Mist Art Center Turkish Fez (AB) Fabulous Frills	Kurt Latimer Justin Morris Howard Shockey Maxine Perkins Nora King
REGION 24 Arab, AL Guntersville, AL	Sybil B. Garner M/M Bill Oates	Nancy Replogle Mrs. H. E. Scruggs & Sarah	Vanity Debbie Rairdon	Celeste Ballew* Eva Garner
Huntsville, AL Oneonta, AL	Sue McNeal Lee/Mary Parkins	Evelyn Brannum S. A./Louise Sloan	Victoria Falls Temple Gold	Margaret Connally Gay Hawkins
FALL SHOWS				
REGION 4 Arlington, VA Williamsburg, VA	Gladys Lee	Happy Tupling	Feedback Baby Blessed (SDB)	Clarence Mahan Clarence Mahan

*Youth

ARTISTIC DIVISION WINNERS

PLACE OF SHOW	BEST DESIGN	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES	BEST DESIGN, YOUTH	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES, YOUTH
REGION 1 Auburn, ME South Paris, ME Waltham, MA	Alice Yates Dr. Elaine Lai Fulton Jean Doucette	Alice Yates Alice Yates	Armand Deschesne Suzanne Schmuhl	— — —
REGION 2 Buffalo, NY	Melinda Sendor			—
REGION 3 Kennet Square, PA Pittsburgh, PA	Mrs. Grant Kegerise	Lenna Easter		— —

REGION 4

Charlotte, NC	Mrs. Liz Ripley			—
Easton, MD	Mildred MacVean	Mildred MacVean	John Windsor	—
Washington, DC	Mary Reynolds	Mary Reynolds		—

REGION 5

Columbia, SC	Peggy Babb			—
Decatur, GA	Mrs. David Benson, Jr.			—
Milledgeville, GA	Joe Watson		Sabrina Yearwood	—
Spartanburg, SC	Millie McConkey	Nell Kirby	Marie Goforth	—
Summerville, SC	Mrs. J. L. Moore	Mrs. J. L. Moore		—

REGION 6

Akron, OH	Dorothy Willott	Dorothy Willott		—
Cleveland, OH	Toni Repp	Toni Repp		—
Columbus, OH	Myrna Cordray	Myrna Cordray		—
Ft. Wayne, IN	Maxine C. Wann	Maxine C. Wann		—
Grand Rapids, MI	Ken Keaing	Ruth Levanduski		—
Grand Rapids, MI	Ruth Levanduski	Ruth Levanduski		—
Indianapolis, IN	Ruth Moorhead	Maxine C. Wann		—
Lansing, MI	Robert Northrup	T. Petovello & Virginia Maynard (tie)	Colette Falco	—
		Linda Applegate		—
Mansfield, OH	Linda Applegate	Rosy Ross		—
Mio, MI	Coleen Solak	Ruth Moorhead		—
Muncie, IN	Ruth Moorhead	Bernard Jones		—
Portage, MI	Bernard Jones			—

REGION 7

Bowling Green, KY	Joe Bryant	Jo Bryant		
Lebanon, TN	Sue Howell	Sue Howell		
Lexington, KY	Pauline Ruttenberg	Pauline Ruttenberg		
Lewisville, KY	Helen Harrigan	Helen Harrigan		
Memphis, TN	Mary Pennington			
Memphis, TN	Exizabeth Moxley			

REGION 8

Chanhassen, MN	Janice Krahn	Charlotte Sindt		
Greendale, WI	Zane Vande	Dorothy Vande		
Greendale, WI	Lavone Ney	Lavone Ney		
Madison, WI	Trudi Theisen	Trudi Theisen		
Roseville, MN	Lois Seeden	Jim Seeden	Laurel Krahn	

REGION 9

Alton, IL	Rosemary Newman	Rosemary Newman		
Freeport, IL	Barbara Williams	Barbara Williams		
Glencoe, IL	Russell Hintz	Russell Hintz		
Hillside, IL	Pat Hessel	William Hessel		
Lombard, IL	Pat Hessel	William Hessel		

REGION 10

Lafayette, LA	Josephine Wiggins			
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REGION 11

Missoula, MT	Ronn Dunn	Ronn Dunn	John Weber	
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REGION 12

Salt Lake City, UT	Alan Toronto	Paul Smith		
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REGION 13

Portland, OR	Mrs. Jerry Shelhamer	Mrs. Jerry Shelhamer	Dan Ludi	David Ludi
Portland, OR	Laura Moritz	Laura Moritz		
Portland, OR	Delores Moller	Delores Moller		
Richland, WA	Johnnie Lee Mead	Johnnie Lee Mead		
Spokane, WA	Norma Lunden	Norma Lunden		
Tocoma, WA	Mrs. Ted Lind	Carol Breedlove		
Walla Walla, WA	Johnnie Lee Mead	Delores Moller		

REGION 14

Garberville, CA	Sue Tosten		Angie Clark	
Hanford, CA	June Pope	June Pope		
Las Vegas, NV	Mrs. Mark Condo			
Redding, CA	Terri Booth	Gracie Brown		
Ukiah, CA	LaVona Barnhart	LaVona Barnhart		Victoria Young
Visalia, CA		Lucille Smith		

REGION 15

Arcadia, CA	Dorothy Jean Spoelstra	Duncan Eader		
Arcadia, CA	Jennie Hopson	Jennie Hopson		
Riverside, CA	Irene Benton	Irene Benton		
San Diego, CA	Glenn Haugh			
Tucson, AZ	Elsa McLean	Phyllis Black (tie)		
		Pam Turner		
Woodland Hills, CA	Betty Rohan	Dorothy L. Thorington	Christie Baum	Christie Baum

REGION 17

Dallas, TX	Mrs. Dee Watkins	Mrs. Dee Watkins		
Fort Worth, TX	Pat Butler	Bunn Butler, Sr.		
Lubbock, TX	Rosemary English	Rosemary English		
Midland, TX	Jean Mills	Mary Newton		
Sherman, TX	Wynonna Green			
Sherman, TX	Gordon Green	Gordon Green		
Waco, TX	Mary Fussell	Hazel Haik		

REGION 18

Clayton, MO	Jo-Ann Finke	Jo-Ann Finke		
Dodge City, KS	Martha Compton			
Garden City, KS	Keith Fillmore	Keith Fillmore	Gay Sherman	
Garden City, KS	Betty Langston	Keith Fillmore	Michelle Smith	

Hutchinson, KS Jefferson City, MO Joplin, MO Kansas City, MO Parsons, KS Saint Ann, MO St. Charles, MO	Pat Dixon Jeanne Schwaller Gladys Boulanger Betty Alloway	Pat Dixon Gladys Boulanger Betty Alloway	Sherlyn Bradley Sarah Thacker	Sherlyn Bradley Sarah Thacker
St. Louis, MO Selden, KS Selden, KS	Jo-Ann Finke Sue Delmez/ Pat Bitzer Cecelia Kassly Alice Franklin Geneva Dies	Jo-Ann Finke Sue Delmez Alice Franklin Geneva Dies (tie) Alice Franklin Chris Taggart	Candi Cooper Debbie Italian	Candi Cooper
Wichitta, KS	Chris Taggart			
REGION 20 Colorado Springs, CO	June Moore	Suzanne Rodgers	Shelly Moller	
Denver, CO	Fran Wittgartner	Fran Wittgartner	Shelly Moller	
REGION 21 Lincoln, NE Norfolk, NE Omaha, NE Scottsbluff, NE Sioux City, IA Sioux Falls, SD	Gladys Ensminger Carolyn Lingenfelter Ruth Ennenga Larry Harder Larry Harder	Marion Burleigh Ruth Ennenga Julie Feil Larry Harder Karen Hoggbloom		Troy Miller Troy Miller
REGION 22 Altus, OK	Mrs. Boyd Davis	Mrs. Boyd Davis	Jonathon Tate (tie) Utah Robinson Melissa Painter	Melissa Painter
Enid, OK Hot Springs, AR Lawton, OK Norman, OK Oklahoma City, OK Tulsa, OK	Ruth Ransom Rim Hassell Lauretta Borsos David Barton Maxine Hawley Jeane Cotton	Ruth Ransom Tim Hassell Lauretta Borsos John Burleson Genevieve Followwill	Juliet Pappan Rosie Stonecipher	Juliet Pappan
REGION 23 Albuquerque, NM Las Cruces, NM Santa Fe, NM	Eloda Nelson Jan Meissner Tomi Lucas	Mary Fry Cathy Peterson Kate Collins	Anna-Marie Matalucci Francesca DiPalma	
REGION 24 Guntersville, AL Huntsville, AL Oneonta, AL	Colony Garden Club Louise Sloan	Colony Garden Club Carol Paschal		

YOUTH DIVISION HORTICULTURE WINNERS

PLACE OF SHOW	SILVER MEDAL, YOUTH	BRONZE MEDAL, YOUTH	BEST SPECIMEN, YOUTH	EXHIBITOR, YOUTH
REGION 1 Auburn, ME South Paris, ME			Little Amigo Mrs. Nate Rudolph (SDB) Kaleidoscope (MTB)	Karole Ann Bean Karole Ann Bean Suzanne Schmuhl
Waltham, MA				
REGION 4 Easton, MD	Meade Windsor		Triumphant	Meade Windsor
REGION 5 Columbia, SC Decatur, GA Milledgeville, GA	Travis Hicks Travis Hicks	Andrea Johnson Danny Watson	Mary Dunn (LA) Carolina Gold Jakarta	Travis Hicks Mike Landrum Danny Watson
REGION 6 Ft. Wayne, IN Indianapolis, IN Mansfield, OH Muncie, IN	Kenton Miller Kenton Miller Kenton Miller	Nathan Miller Nathan Miller Nathan Miller	Wild Card Evening Velvet Superstition Mountain Rose	Nathan Miller Nathan Miller Cathy Ridenour Kenton Miller
REGION 7 Lexington, KY Murfreesboro, TN Nashville, TN	Todd Whalen Barry Turns	Nicole Gastineau Troy Phillips	Gold Galore Victoria Falls Lucy Snowflake	Nicole Gastineau Allen Mason, Jr. Troy Phillips
REGION 8 Chanhassen, MN	Laurel Krahn		Mrs. Nate Rudolph (SDB)	Laurel Krahn
REGION 11 Missoula, MT	John Weber	Stacey Weber	Superstition	John Weber
REGION 14 Fresno, CA Garberville, CA Hanford, CA Newark, CA Sacramento, CA Ukiah, CA Visalia, CA	John Montgomery Adam Hitchcock Micheal Tyson Ginny Osborn John Montgomery	Michele Matheny Michele Matheny Mike Tyson	Smart Barbara I. pseudacorus Baja Bandit Sky Hooks White Elephant Perfect Accent Crystalyne	Michele Matheny Adam Hitchcock Michele Matheny Julie Petermeier Robert Lauer Alissa Lokerg Eveanne T. Wylie
REGION 17 Waco, TX	Luis Sais	Cody Newman	Lemon Mist	Luis Sais

REGION 18 Garden City, KS Garden City, KS Hutchinson, KS Parsons, KS St. Charles, MO	Kenneth Smith Kenneth Smith Sherlyn Bradley Karen Gard Patrick Martin	Mike Ortiz Brandon Smith Andy Stout Candi Cooper	Hocus Pocus (SDB) Little Annie (SDB) Dream Spun Actress Metallic Blue	Kenneth Smith Nicholas Smith Sherlyn Bradley Karen Gard Patrick Martin
REGION 19 Princeton, NJ			Babbling Brook	Jennifer Gregg
REGION 20 Colorado Springs, CO	Amy C. Briggs	Shelly Moller	Scintillation Stepping Out	Amy C. Briggs Shelly Moller
REGION 21 Scottsbluff, NE			Stepping Out	Grady Costello
REGION 22 Norman, OK Oklahoma City, OK Tulsa, OK	Janice Smith	Philip Stonecipher	Poetic Justice Crushed Velvet Jetfire	Juliet Pappan Beth Bowman Janice Smith
REGION 23 Albuquerque, NM Albuquerque, NM Santa Fe, NM	Kelly Doonan Kurt Latimer	Christine Roger Kelly Doonan	Pacific Mist Santana Temple Gold	Justin Morris Kelly Doonan Kelly Doonan
REGION 24 Arab, AL			Vanity	Celeste Ballew

COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

PLACE OF SHOW	COMMERCIAL EXHIBIT	EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT
REGION 4 Easton, MD Roanoke, VA		Rich Rowdell Louise & Walter Smith Victor Layman
REGION 5 Columbia, SC Decatur, GA Summerville, SC	Nick's Iris Garden	Tiffany Johnson (youth) Mrs. Roger Ferryman Mrs. P. R. Black
REGION 6 Lansing, MI Portage, MI		Virginia Maynard Anna Mae Miller
REGION 7 Lebanon, TN Lewisville, KY		Mr. & Mrs. Robert Joines Ben McGhee
REGION 8 Chanhassen, MN Roseville, MN	Riverdale Iris Garden World Iris Garden Julius Wadekamper Jack Worel	
REGION 11 Missoula, MT		Jerry & Donna Bowers Ken & Rosemary Baier
REGION 13 Portland, OR Poretland, OR Portland, OR Walla Walla, WA	Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens Schreiners Iris Gardens Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens Laurie's Garden Carrie Criscola	
REGION 14 Garberville, CA Redding, CA Ukiah, CA		Stephen Wills Gracie Brown Georgia Maxim Ruby Hulbert
REGION 15 Arcadia, CA San Diego, CA		John & Kay Tearington Thelma Carrington
REGION 18 Hutchinson, KS St. Charles, MO Selden, KS		Evelyn Neier Debbie Italian Geneva Dies
REGION 20 Colorado Springs, CO		Bobby Phillips, Annje Jensen, Shelly Moller, Ann & Jessica Knudtson
REGION 22 Lawton, OK Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK		Marjorie Puckeett Bonnie Hadaway Beth Bowman Maxine Hawley Geeevieve Followwill and Bonnie Hadaway Genevieve Followwill

State of the Art: Median Hybridizing Trends

(Editor's Note: A series of feature articles published in the 1984 and 1985 Medianites consisted of a review, conducted by Bee Warburton, of current hybridizing work for each of the four median classes of bearded irises. To accomplish this, Bee mailed questionnaires to median hybridizers, asking them to explain their goals, types of crosses made, most successful parents used, and their favorites, as finished flowers, from their own introductions.

The results mailed back to Bee were profuse and exciting, and filled four issues of the Medianite. We could not reproduce all four issues in one Bulletin, so we have condensed them herewith.)

Median iris breeding differs from that of almost every other type of iris, in large degree, in that the medians—middle-sized bearded irises—were created from many sources, and even today hybridizers have myriad choices among the species and hybrid cultivars from which to accomplish their hybridizing goals.

Standard Dwarf Bearded

The Standard Dwarf Bearded, with flowers 7-9 cm (2-3 inches) across and a height range of 21-40 cm (8-15 inches) and blooming in sequence between miniature dwarfs and intermediate seasons, were originally the result of TB X pumila crosses made in the 1950's, first by Paul Cook then by Geddes Douglas. Today, most crosses for SDBs are accomplished by SDB X SDB crosses, although it has been suggested that hybridizers could attempt the TB X pumila crosses again, using modern TBs, to bring new genes into the lines.

Among the goals for SDBs, the hybridizers listed conformation to all assets given in the Judges' Manual: wide and ruffled form, heavy substance, proportion, vigor and good plant habits being mentioned most frequently. With SDBs, the ability to form a neat, cushion clump is of prime importance. As for color and specific goals, almost every dream has been embodied in the SDBs of today, but hybridizers are still working for a really good pink with all of the above attributes. Other specific goals are directed towards beards, especially electric blue beards on white or pink petals and tangerine or red beards on any color petals. A truly good pink with heavy substance and wide form has been a goal since the beginning of the median movement (Bennett Jones, *The Median*, 1959) and there are hybridizers who are now probably trying to accomplish this goal using the excellent pink TBs of today with original pumila species.

Concerning goals, Floyd Dyer said he first works for a color or for a color break, then tries to build an iris with good form and substance. In contrast, Jayne Ritchie said, "If I get an outstanding seedling, then THAT is the color I'm working on. As a result, I now have five or six color lines going. I am not as oriented to color (as long as it is clean) as I am to form and proportion. I figure

the colors will come along as I go, and they ARE coming along." Bennett Jones takes another approach: "When I make a cross I suppose color or a color combination is first in mind, but I think overall quality, proportion, form and width of petals are most important when selecting from the seedlings."

Bee discovered some interesting answers from the hybridizers when they responded to the question, "What varieties have been your best parents?" The one variety most often listed was Bennett Jones' COTTON BLOSSOM, and it was being used primarily for form-width and ruffling-and substance. Bee also says, "In the course of its involvement for this purpose, which seems paramount in making the pinks conform to an acceptably stylish mode, several people discovered that it has tangerine factors, and will actually produce pinks in the first generation of crosses to tangerine pinks. Its pollen parent, MERRY SUNLIGHT, has tangerine genes on both sides, MARY RANDALL on one, and BRASSIE on the other. MERRY SUNLIGHT's pollen parent, from MARY RANDALL X GARNET TREASURE, is an IB, of different chromosome composition, giving in the squeeze cross an extra measure of the t gene." Carol Lankow also reported that COTTON BLOSSOM bequeaths good fragrance to its children.

Some other favorite SDB parents included RAIN DANCE, STOCKHOLM, PALE SUEDE, BETTY WOOD, BLUEBERRY MUFFINS, BLUE TRINKET, GENTLE SMILE, GINGERBREAD MAN, GREEN SPOT, LUCKY DUCK, MRS. NATE RUDOLPH, REGARDS, and SERENITY.

The hybridizers also had some interesting tips for beginners. Concerning linebreeding, Emma Hobbs recommended that a new seedling of merit be self-pollinated immediately: "It will tell you right off the bat, if it takes, that your clone is both pod and pollen fertile, and lets you know if there's much sense in pursuing it."

Bill Maryott made these interesting observations: "The number of flowers I pollinate for each given cross depends on a number of things: first, blues, whites and plicatas tend to germinate best, so require the least seeds. Secondly, some parents are notoriously poor for seed production, so require as many pollinations as possible. If I think the cross has lots of potential or if I am doing refinements on a given color, I tend to grow lots of seedlings. For "What ifs" not as many seeds are needed."



Medians at Pope's Perennials, Gorham, ME

Intermediate Bearded

Intermediate bearded irises are vigorous plants with flowers 8-12 cm inches across (3.5-5 inches) and 41-70 cm (16-27 inches) in height, and blooming before the TBs. Essentially produced by crosses of SDB pollen onto TBs, they are hence usually sterile and thus a unique challenge to hybridizers. As Joe Gatty said, "the end result is either paydirt or compost additive." Respondants to Bee's poll indicated they were anything but limited to the standard TB X SDB cross, however, using every combination imaginable to produce pleasing IBs: BB X SDB, IB X SDB, IB X TB, even IB X IB, as well as the use of various species: *I. balkana*, *aphylla* and *reichenbachii*, and even *attica*. Bee noted that "what stands out in a survey of the IB registrations is the imagination shown in the crosses, the wild abandon, the glorious fun of crossing something different." Cleo Palmer calls these the "WHAT IF" crosses.

IB goals mentioned in the questionnaires included horns, tangerine beards (especially on petals other than pink), lace, width and ruffling, proportion and flare. Some hybridizers are also intrigued by the idea of establishing fertile IB strains.

Cleo Palmer wrote: "In the color combinations, various bicolors with spots of a third color seem very possible, as are *amoena plicatas*, if bred in that direction. Blue *amoenas* seem quite likely, and from there a multitude of new colors and patterns, such as have appeared in the descendants from PROGENITOR in the tall bearded class. However, it is possible to use recent *balkana*-blooded tall as well as PROGENITOR-derived tall, and cross with *pumila* for SDBs, or with SDBs for IBs, and get some first generation plants with the inhibited standards."

Cleo also made an interesting comment about the pollen parent of his 1984 IB introduction, CHAMP. He noted that this seedling parent was so ugly and muddy a color that "only an idiot like me would ever try using it, but it DOES have exceptional form. It is a terrible muddy chartreuse color, which only goes to prove that a very ugly duckling can produce a very beautiful swan."

In choosing parents for IBs, the possibilities are nearly limitless; however Cleo offered this sound advice: "to get the best form in the IBs one needs to look closely at the tall parent and select for extra good qualities that may be lacking in the SDB parent, such as exceptionally full hafts, rounder falls, and a higher bud count which may give an extra bud or two in the IBs, which they can use. Generally speaking, the TB parent seems to be more important for good IBs than does the SDB parent."

Border Bearded

This class is defined as having stalks from 41 to 70 cm (16-27 inches) with flowers preferably 10-13 cm (4 to 5 inches) wide, similar to the IBs but differing in that they bloom concurrently with the Tall Bearded.

The original BBs were segregates from TB breeding—short plants found in the seedling rows of TB hybridizers. Because of this origin, some BBs have lacked vigor; others have tended to grow out of class or are disproportionate.

Goals of BB hybridizers include form, proportion, branching, bud count, and vigor. Specific goals such as violet bearded whites were mentioned, but primarily the hybridizers hope to eventually develop hybrid breeding lines among the BBs, as has been accomplished with the SDBs. Ben Hager pointed out that his BB X BB crosses produce few seeds, and those seeds were poor germinators. Carol Lankow said she does not make as many BB X BB crosses as she first did—the results included too many that were too large or were rot prone. She summed it up by saying, “I look back wistfully to those early days when we thought it would be easy to breed improved BBs. That may still be true one day, but we have a long way to go.”

In the meantime, hybridizers are still selecting TB segregates, but are also using BB X BB, IB X BB, SDB X BB, BB X TB, TB X various species including *balkana*, *reichenbachii* and *aphylla*, and even 48 ch. (tetraploid) MTBs with small TBs. They also listed many TBs which have proven dependable for producing BBs in class, and specific BBs that have been good parents.

Steve Varner noted that the TBs VANITY and JEWEL TONE have factors for dwarfness. He also recommended the old BB, CHELSEA, which he said was probably the best parent he knows for BB, but he knows no source for it.

Steven Stevens mentioned AFTER ALL, which he said was short for him and predominantly threw short offspring.

Joe Ghio recommended the BB, MARMALADE SKIES, saying it has consistently produced BBs of excellent proportion and size in a wide range of colors.

Bernice Miller said that the rebloomer, PURPLE DUET, seems to produce small seedlings, and Horace Wright reported that LATE RETURNS produced some BBs, and was hopeful that the IB, BELLA ROSE, would also produce small offspring.

Keith Keppel had some candid and helpful advice. He said, “Selecting plants that will consistently be within class limits is always a problem, but if the selections are grown and evaluated a sufficient number of years prior to final decision, embarrassment should not be too acute. Of my eight introductions through 1985, DESPERADO (1979) is the only one which has proven to be a “border-line border” and at times a small tall.”

He goes on to say, “It has seemed to me that small-flowered tall-stalked TBs are more useful in producing BBs than are large-flowered short-stalked TBs. In charting out my border registrations and best border seedlings, certain crosses keep cropping up as parents. ROUNDUP and its sibs (the 68-17 series) figure prominently. ROUNDUP is tall, but relatively thin-stalked and small flowered for its height.”

“There were many fairly smallish flowers in the PICAYUNE cross (68—19), due in part to the Quadros seedling used, which was of average height but relatively small-flowered. It was from SURRENDER X NEW ADVENTURE. Tell’s NEW ADVENTURE was a small-flowered quite tall thing as it grew here; Gibson’s APRIL MELODY and Nearpass’ JEALOUS LOVER, both derivatives of NEW ADVENTURE, also tended to have smallish flowers. JEALOUS LOVER is behind PREDICTION (’82), and APRIL MELODY is behind GREMLIN, DESPERADO, HOPSCOTCH, PREDICTION, PECCADILLO, and SHE-NANIGAN.”

Miniature Tall Bearded

The specifications for the MTB class are the most rigid of all the medians, and the only class that pointedly recognizes the value of diploid bearded irises. Approximately the same height range as IB and BB, they have smaller flowers than either of the others, and a greater profusion of more delicate, wiry stalks. Optimum flower size is about 8 cm (3 inches), but the standard definition for the flower size is 6 inches combined height and width. Optimum height is about 55 cm (21 inches) but may range from 41 to 63 cm (16 to 25 inches.) In addition, the stems must be slender—3 to 5 mm wide at the top increasing to about 16 mm at the ground line, and foliage must be restrained, seldom over 25 mm (1 inch) wide and about two-thirds the height of the stem. MTBs, because of their use as cut flowers, should also have a pleasing scent. With these constraints, it is perhaps not surprising that Bee discovered only 18 hybridizers had registered MTBs worldwide in the period of 1980 through 1984.

Goals mentioned by the hybridizers included producing tetraploid examples, especially amoena plicatas, good pink cultivars, and in general, the variety of color patterns found in modern TBs, especially the dark ones.

The hybridizers are using registered MTB cultivars, *I. aphylla*, old diploids, TBs, fertile IBs, BB X *aphylla* and *reichenbachii*, SDB X MTB, and (TB X SDB) X SDB.

Three of the hybridizers of MTBs wrote in-depth replies to Bee's questionnaire, and their articles are reprinted in this bulletin. We are pleased to note that since Terry Varner's article was written, he has joined forces with Mary Louise Dunderman in establishing Ohio Gardens, and has registered and introduced his first four MTBs.

We salute all of our median hybridizers!



The Whites' garden in Maine

Pink MTB—Where, oh Where? Not Here!

By Dorothy Guild, Washington

There was a burning question in the early 60s regarding which route to take for improvement of MTB and the expansion of the gene pool for them. Should this direction be through the diploids or through the 48's? Then, more recently, there was much discussion about what benefit might derive from species use. I have tried them all in the last twenty years. Most all of Ben Hager's 48-chromosome introductions, and species hybrids from Bee Warburton and Dr. Fred Judy, as well, have submitted to my pollen daubing.

Improved pinks in other bearded classes became another challenge to MTB hybridizers. As beginners in 48-chromosomers there were Ben Hager's EN ROUTE (1968) and ENTR'ACT (1971) that came from use of TBs and THISBE. Ever since then, Ben has continued this trend until his pink, PUPPY LOVE (1980), shows many generations of THISBE (48 chromosome aphylla) and several pinks, among which are JUNE BRIDE, NORAH, SEVENTH HEAVEN, FRENCHI and PAGODA. That pedigree shows dedication of purpose!

I, too, had an itch to get onto the pink bandwagon. On appeal, several hybridizers sent me their smallish pinks. Earl Roberts sent pink seedlings from his early breeding for a pink SDB. Melba Hamblen, Tell Muhlestein, Bennett Jones, and Adelaide Peterson all contributed their little ones. Most of these generous folks had already been working with pinks for several years. Thus, hopefully, I would be able to profit from their efforts and not waste time experimenting on my own. This would save years of work in my attempts for an MTB pink 'break' from 24s, 48s and so on.

Victor Runberg, a local irisarian, had an IB-like pink and rose blend chance seedling in his garden which intrigued me. It had form, substance, and fertility both ways, to MTB pollen and cultivars. After much urging to register it, he finally did so, as VICTORY PINK.

WHISPERING SPRITE reliably gave viable seed from several of the above pink or pinkfactored irises, giving mostly white or yellow blooms on the seedlings. My trials were numerous, though. Balloon pods, scant seed crops with their lack of germination, loss of branching and proportions, poor vigor in the seedlings, and lack of fertility—add to all that two years when severe winter weather killed about half of the seedlings from the '72, '73, '75 and '76 hybridizing efforts. In 1971, I had planted seed from a dozen crosses onto LILLIPINKPUT, harvesting one to nine seeds per cross, resulting in from zero seedlings to one or two having poor vigor.

This went on for ten years before I finally gave up on getting a pink break. Probably the closest I have come to it are with CANDY LANE and seedling 82DG120, which is a pinkish rose, and:

70DG1 (DESERT QUAIL X VICTORY PINK) X

74-141 (72DG65 (VICTORY PINK x DAYSTAR sdlg #3).x A.P. 61-11A (LILLIGOLDPUT x PARADISE PINK)))

Each, CANDY LANE and 82D120, is very fertile both ways. 82DG120 is tall, but blooms and branching are good. Both should have a flock of seedlings giving maiden bloom in 1985. In 1982, CANDY LANE gave me five pods and its pollen gave 76 crosses. 82DG120 had four blooms with three pods, and I very nearly lost it as a result. Its pollen gave me 21 crosses. Unfortunately, neither one gave results on JOLLIE AIRE, which is registered but not introduced. JOLLIE AIRE is DAINY DOVE X 74DG66 (66-25A (PINK PETITE x PAGODA) X RINGBEARER (which has no viable pollen for me.)

VICTORY PINK, because of its ready fertility, has been used liberally. With the help of various MTBs, it has given a broad spectrum of self colors and diverse color patterns. It is in 15 of my registered MTBs. Two were winterkilled before introduction, while two others showed erratic growth with what I considered over size, after they were introduced.

CANDY LANE has been introduced only recently. Of the others, nine have garnered HMs: ADANA TAPESTRY, CHIAN WINE, DIMITY JANE, FAIRY DARKLING, FUN AND FANCY, GEMSEE GEE, LA ROSE TOUCHE, MERRY VIGNETTE, and DISCO JEWEL. The last went on to win the Williamson-White award.

There still are seedlings in my patch with potential for pink!

(Reprinted from the Medianite Vol. 26, No. 2, Summer 1985)

Kary Gardens—IRIS

Ray and Ardi Kary
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

1988 Introduction

NEW MELODY (Peterson) AK-84-CB1, AB (¼), 22-24", M. Purple self with splattering of small splashes of white. Falls are rounded and slightly curved under. (Plicata sdlg. X Heart Stealer). This perky plum purple arilbred is a fast increaser and makes a fun and colorful showing in the garden \$25.00

Previous Introductions

VIEWER'S WISH (Peterson-Kary '87) AB (¼), 20-22", M. Violet standards with midribs the same medium tan color as the falls. Falls are rounded and tucked. Slight deep red veining extends from the deep red-tipped gold beards. (Gypsy Dream X (Card of Thanks x Tuesday Song). Very appealing \$15.00

NAVAJO AUTUMN (Peterson '86) TB. Medium tan-red standards. Falls deeper tan-red with red overlay, unevenly banded soft yellow. Showy \$10.00

PINK BETTERMENT (Peterson '85) AB (½). Large rich medium pink from Heart Stealer. Large black beards. Stunning \$12.50

WELCOME SIGHT (Peterson '85) AB (¼). Standards are rich blue-lavender. Falls slightly darker. Large deep lilac-lavender signal. A welcome addition to the garden \$5.00

BOLD SENTRY (Peterson '83). AB (½). Standards are rich sky blue. Falls medium tan, heavily dusted with rich crimson. Small black signals and black beards. Tall and colorful \$5.00

Please send for our price list.

Bonus Irises.

Include \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Having Fun with Table Iris

By W. Terry Varner, Ohio

My interest and fun with Table Irises began a few years ago due to difficulties experienced with disease, tenderness and too tall bloom stalks and over-large flowers on the Tall Bearded.

Instead of crossing the latest MTB introductions, I began by collecting several old diploids, old MTBs, seedlings from various hybridizers, and a few of the then late MTBs. With these I began to hybridize and develop my own lines and stock. I am deeply indebted to many irisarians—Walter Welch, Irene Pyle, Everett Randles, Harriet Segesseman, Mary Louise Dunderman, Wilma Vallette, and others for their kind help.

Being a novice I made several serious mistakes, some of which continue to haunt me as I reflect on my past work. For instance, I developed an instant dislike for plicatas and tossed every plicata seedling that occurred in my work.

The easiest route, and perhaps will always be the best route, to better tables is through diploids. By crossing and selecting smaller things, I believe we can have the color patterns in our MTBs that are found, for the most part, in the tall bearded.

While I have worked towards better tables in various colors, I have intentionally worked for darker colors. If a weakness among the tables struck me when I became initially interested, also pointed out to me by my wife, it was the absence of darker colors and patterns. But, this should not be so—as darker diploids in various patterns existed in their early development preceding our tetraploids. Presently, dark colors and various patterns abound in my seedling patch; however, reducing them to introducable tables is another thing. Seemingly, at least to me, the lighter colored diploids are easier to reduce to the proportionate size. This may be due to the influence of *I. variegata*. The darker colors then must be resulting from *I. pallida* inheritance. Among those I have found to produce darker irises when properly combined are: TOM TIT, MONARDO, PERFECTION, VIOLET CORSAJE, MONSIEUR and others.

Some of the more promising seedlings as parents and possible introductions within the next few years include:

1. I-308 (SISKIN X C-314) Medium brown self with yellow beard. 20", 3 branches and terminal. Styles yellow. All in MTB proportion.
2. J-323 (LA BOHEMMIENE X Greenlee yellow TB) Medium yellow, 3 branches and terminal. Extra good substance. Doesn't burn in hot sunshine and wind. Stem too large but flower 3x2 and good parent.
3. J-339 (TOM TIT X F-306) Ruffled blue stds, slightly open. Falls darker blue with hint of purple, slightly ruffled. Beard blue on fall. 3 branches and terminal. Flower 3x2. 20". May be introduced in 1987.

4. K-315 (C-317 PRETTY BUTTERFLY) Stds light cream. Falls almost clean white. 3 branches and terminal. 22". Flower 3x2. Yellow beard. Extra neat in clump. Gives a layered look. Will be introduced in 1986.
5. K-321 (TIDBIT X Dunderman)-195) Stds. white sanded in lower section with light purple. Falls flare, white with purple plic marks at hafts. Beard white tipped yellow. 3 branches and terminal. Flower 2½x2. This will be introduced in 1986; my first plicata introduction.
6. K-347 (I-309 X Dunderman)-195) Stds light yellow, closed. Falls semi-flare, overlaid with purple. 19". 3 branches and terminal. Flower 3x2. Beard yellow. To be introduced in 1986.
7. M-336 (J-339 X CONSUMMATION) Stds white, closed. Falls very dark purple, almost black with no edging as in CONSUMMATION. Falls a little too long. 3 branches and terminal. Beautiful effect in garden.
8. N-327 (J-312 X WIDGET) Neat white self. 22". Flower 3x2. Mass of bloom.
9. N-362 (Dunderman AA158 X PERFECTION) Stds medium blue. Falls dark purple edged as stds. Beard is brown. 19". Flower 3¼x 2½.
10. N-376 (Parentage unknown). Standards butter yellow, Falls yellow overlaid white with maroon plic marks. This is a neat iris with a bloom 3x2½. Beard yellow.

These are but a few from the seedling patch. Some are good parents and others have the promise of future introductions. Of about 1100 seedlings in 1985, I saved about 100, and planted between 1000 and 1100 to bloom in 1986. From these my diploid work is on a solid foundation.

This is a new field for me in the last three years: an extremely difficult field; perhaps that will not consistently produce tables for several years and a lot more hard work. Hager's tetraploid MTBs have always intrigued me but have always over-grown for me with the exception of DINKY, which has under-grown. However, I moved it to a new location in 1984. It did not bloom this year but certainly looks the healthiest since I have tried to grow it. Sindt's ECHO POND was nice this year on a first year plant. It contains both *I. aphylla* and *I. reichenbachii* in its background. It stayed within strict table restrictions this year. If it remains in the class restriction it will become a favorite with its light blue standards and medium violet falls. It pods easily with other tetraploids and its pollen was potent for me this spring.

I. aphylla, at least the smaller forms, used on smaller borders is apparently the route to tetraploid tables. As seen above, David Sindt's ECHO POND ('84) and his EVENING POND ('85), which I have not seen but have on order, have *I. reichenbachii* in their background. So far as I know this is about our only route to tetraploid tables. This requires a lot of intercrossing and sibbing, though Bee Warburton says, from her experience, there is no use to sib (*Medianite*, 1961, p. 58). While I have found that the number of seeds are often limited in the diploid and other approaches, there has been no scarcity of seeds in tetraploid crosses. They also seem, at least to me, to germinate in higher

percentages. Various blends and colors have appeared in my patch. I have found that the dark coloring of *I. aphylla* has not dominated all the seedlings except in those crosses which I made for a dark table; e.g., SVELTE X *I. aphylla* Geneva S-2.

As I stated earlier, this approach is new to me. My seedlings have been limited in both number and material used. But I have two seedlings which I like. N-113 (NEW IDEA X MAROON CAPER) is a nice bright maroon self, 15", 2 branches and terminal. Flower is $2\frac{3}{4} \times 2$, no pollen, yellow beard. Standards are erect and open, falls flare and are very broad at hafts. (Interestingly, many of my tetraploid table seedlings have no pollen. Some of Ben Hager's tables and table seedlings lack pollen, too.) N-114 (SCALE MODEL X DINKY) is the best seedling to date by this approach. It is a cool icy blue. Standards touch, falls semi-flare. Hafts are wide with a few marks. Style arms white. Crests are light blue, beard is yellow. This one bloomed late and is encouraging to me. I did have two pink seedlings which are of better form than their parent PUPPY LOVE but are too large flowered.

Personally, I believe that if this approach is to produce consistent tables it is going to be over several generations and with the efforts of more hybridizers. The stalks and blooms are for the most part too large. Ben Hager was kind to send me several selected table seedlings from his line last summer. Some of these bloomed this spring and I worked them into my lines, beginning some new lines from them. The stalks and blooms on Hager's things are too large, and exactly how near their normal size they grew this spring, I do not know. Their established clumps in the next couple of years should tell me something. I am certain they did not grow their normal height and bloom size. This was also true for my seedlings. Hager's things, added to my previous two or three years work, will give me a good base from which to build and work in this extremely difficult approach.

Again, this is a difficult program. It is easy to get intermediates (TB X SDB). Though I have worked this program only a couple of years, I have often found little pollen, difficulty in setting pods, or lots of pollen but not producing pods on other things.

This approach, in my program, is through (TBXSDB) X SDB. I began by selecting several small well-proportioned borders to be used with small and well-proportioned SDBs. I hit upon the idea of using tetraploid tables, too. I have a couple of seedlings from PUPPY LOVE X BLUE SPARKS. One, numbered N-200, was a yellow self with stem the proper table size and the flower $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$. The form was not the best, but neither is the form of PUPPY LOVE. But, it also had no branching this year. There may be two reasons for this. BLUE SPARKS is not a TB X pumila, but an SDB X chamaeiris background. Secondly, the plant was not in a good growing spot. It has been moved to a better location. The form can perhaps be overcome, as it podded without difficulty. The branching, if it is going to lack it, will be more difficult to overcome.

Carol Lankow kindly sent some intermediates with *I. aphylla* in their background. I have 18 nice pods on them. So, in a couple of years, I will begin to know something. In working this approach the TB should have *I. aphylla* in its background. This gives it the small genes needed for tables. The SDB must also be small. I have some IB X IB, but the stalk and flower have consistently been too large. Exactly what will happen when crossed back to TB, I am going to find out, as I have a few pods made this way. Perhaps others know. My thinking is that perhaps those things with *I. aphylla* would segregate out thus resulting in smaller blooms and stalks. This approach, as with the tetraploids, leaves the foliage too large in my opinion. This is seen more after they have bloomed than when they are blooming. But, if they are in proportion when they bloom, I can accept this larger foliage.

Years ago I made the cross GREEN SPOT X SISKIN. I got five seedlings: one blue, one olive, 2 yellow and a dirty white. All were dainty bloom and stalks were short, the tallest being only 15". Being new at this and not realizing what I had, I became discouraged when I could not pod them or get their pollen to take on other tables. I could not sib them or backcross them. Finally, I tossed them—much to my present disappointment, as I now believe I could do something with them. I know that Jean Witt, Dorothy Guild, Mary Louise Dunderman and others have seedlings from this approach that they have been able to use in their lines. I continue to make these crosses. The seed count is few. Germination is low. It takes, at least for me, several crosses. I have some things to bloom from these lines in 1986. I lost SISKIN and have not been able to find it again. It always had potent pollen for me. I save my MTB pollen by freezing it and then using it on selected SDBs the following spring. Then, except for something special, I have this work done before the tables begin to bloom and I can follow through on other programs. Several need to make this type of cross and then compile a list of good SDB pod parents, and/or table parents, depending on how the cross is made. Not all SDBs will take table pollen, and the opposite is also true. Paul Cook contended that more seeds resulted from 40x24 rather than 24x40 (*Medianite*, 1968, p. 28), and I am inclined to agree. But, I purposely made more crosses SDB x MTB than the other way, for the reason explained above.

Some might reason WHY use all of these different and difficult routes to tables, if they can be easily obtained from straight diploid crosses? My answer is that I enjoy trying something different and difficult. After all, when I quit this fun game, I will feel satisfied for trying the challenges these approaches have given me, and for the fun I have had through it all.

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 A Linda Smith
 A Von Smith
 A Mrs. Von Smith
 A Stephen Stevens
 A Mrs. Stephen Stevens
 A Mrs. Harold Stretz
 G Eric Tankesley-Clarke
 G Robert Tankesley-Clarke
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 G* Mrs. Norman H. Noe
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 G Mrs. C. B. Reeves, Jr.
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 G Nancy Szmuriga
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 G Stella Bates
 G Anne Weatherly Cuthbert
 G Joel Dennison Cuthbert
 G Mary Ann Cuthbert
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 G Winifred Daily
 G Kayellen R. Daily
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 G Janice M. Wilson
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G Mrs. James G. Burch
 M B. Howard Camp
 M Mrs. B. Howard Camp
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 G Mrs. James G. Charles
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 G Mrs. Thomas F. Craig
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 G Jack Kearney
 G Mrs. Jack Kearney
 M Grady Kennedy
 M Mrs. Grady Kennedy
 M Mrs. A. I. Kuykendall
 G J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 G Mrs. J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 M Joe M. Langdon
 M Mrs. Joe M. Langdon
 G Mrs. Jack H. Lucas
 M Nan Elizabeth Miles
 E Mrs. E. P. Miles
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 G Walter Moores
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- ARMADA** (Keppel) EM 37" (Polar Seas sib) Large, broad and heavily ruffled bicolor plic: blue white standards, white falls with 1" wide solid margin of blue violet \$30.00
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- FARAWAY PLACES** (Keppel) EM 35" (Mulled Wine X Orangerie sib) Exotic blend of corinth purple, cedar and cinnamon, with terra cotta beards. See centerfold picture \$35.00
- FEMME FATALE** (Gatty) ML 35" (Paradise X Pretty Lady) Seductively ruffled and laced light pink, the falls a paler shade \$35.00
- IN TOWN** (Blyth) EM 38" (Tomorrow's Child X Magic Man) Lavender blue standards, velvety blue purple falls with lavender edges and tangerine beards \$30.00
- JITTERBUG** (Keppel) E 35" ((Rancho Rose x Peccadillo sib) X Rustic Dance) Bright sunflower to chrome lemon, the falls with an allover rayed wash of reddish maroon \$35.00
- QUIET MOMENT** (Gatty) ML 34" (Mannequin X Paradise) Soothing peachy cream, with ivory to golden poppy beards \$30.00
- ROMANTICIST** (Keppel) M 36" (Highland Haze X Gigolo) Ruffled pink buff, with soft rosy mauve plicata shadings and sandings; apricot orange beards \$30.00
- ROYAL ELEGANCE** (Gatty) M 36" (Winterscape X Swirling Seas) Periwinkle blue self, well branched and superbly ruffled \$30.00
- RUSTLER** (Keppel) M 37" (Laredo X Dazzling Gold) Vibrant henna and rust bitone with yellow orange beards \$25.00
- SMART ALECK** (Gatty) L 36" ((sib x Show Biz) X (Show Biz x Villain)) Sassy variegata with clear colonial yellow standards and velvety purplish red falls \$35.00
- WITCH'S WAND** (Blyth) M-ML 36" (Tomorrow's Child X Magic Man) Dark violet to black violet bitone, with conspicuous orange-tangerine beards \$35.00

Intermediates

- TCHIN-TCHIN** (Gatty) M 22" ((Rancho Rose x (Flamenco sib x (Roundup sib x April Melody))) X (Baja sib x Melon Honey)) Peach pink, with blended buff pink overlay in the upper center of falls; bittersweet orange beards \$15.00
- TRIPLER** (Keppel) M 23" (Logo sib) Apricot yellow to reed yellow, with rosy mauve standard flush, hafts and paler edge; tangerine orange beards \$15.00

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BILLIE YVONNE (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L Ruffled peach and white blend with orange beards. Spicy lemon fragrance. (Gene Buckles X Bavarian Cream) EC 1985 \$30.00

CIRCUS JEWEL (H. Nichols-Donovan Albers) TB 36" M-L Captivating and uniquely dark purple plicata with very dark bronze-purple beards. Will probably rebloom in mild climates. (Mystique X Earl of Essex) \$30.00

CANDLELIGHT REFLECTIONS (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L Creamy yellow and white blend with darker hafts and yellow-gold beards. (Thick and Creamy X Chartreuse Ruffles) This one will be sent as an extra with all orders.

GLORY DAYS (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L Creamy yellow-tan suffused orchid standards over orchid white falls bordered the standard color and gold beards which are tipped rust. (Pearl Chiffon X Chartreuse Ruffles) \$35.00

MEXICAN BEAUTY (H. Nichols) TB 32" A blend of honey, bronze, amber and brown. Gold beards add the final touch. One for the front border. (Tawny Gold X Ponderosa) Well branched \$20.00

NORTHWEST PASSAGE (H. Nichols) TB 36" E-L The spectacular neglecta-plicata seen at the Seattle Convention. Not a rapid grower. Order early. Well branched with many buds. HC 1984 (Odyssey X Crystal Ball) \$35.00

OKLAHOMA SUNSHINE (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L Yellow self with darker hafts. Very well branched. (Joyce Terry X Candlelight Dinner) \$30.00

TEMPLE SONG (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L Nearly a purple amoena with a few haft markings and gold beards. ((Line Up x Cabaret Royale) X (Latin Lover x Bayberry Candle)) Very striking in a clump .. \$30.00

WINDSONG WEST (H. Nichols) TB 36" M-L A light blue blended smokey blue. Beards are blended blue and orange. Gives some repeat bloom. (Full Tide X His Lordship) Well branched with multi-budded stalks \$35.00

CASTLE STRONGHOLD (H. Nichols) BB 27" Fluted and ruffled medium purple plicata. (Aegean Star X Victory Pledge). Fertile .. \$15.00

THEDA CLARK (H. Nichols) IB 18" M-L Ruffled deep violet self with occasional darker red-violet hafts. ECs 1984 & 1985 (Sapphire Jewel X Billy Harris) \$15.00

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PLEASURE IRIS GARDENS

425 East Luna Street

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1987 INTRODUCTIONS — TALL BEARDED

(Henry Danielson)

DAZZLING EMINENCE—Sdlg. T-86-11. TB, 30" (76 cm), M-L. S. light brown with serrated edge. F. same with large splash of mahogany, edged light brown. Style crests light brown; haft markings accentuate the bright orange beards. Good wide fans support the heavy stalks; large rhizomes. Three beautiful flowers with good substance open on the stalk in perfect sequence. Vigorous plant and increases well. Truly a masculine plant. Dazzling Gold X Brown Eminence \$35.00

ARILBREDS

(Henry Danielson)

DOWN PAYMENT—Sdlg. X-84-1. AB (¼), 30" (76 cm), E-M. S. slate lavender with a touch of cream at midrib. Style arms and crests same as S. F. slate lavender with reddish brown splash at reddish brown beards, then blending to violet. The slate lavender rim on the falls rounds out the colors of this flower. A sister seedling to Aril Skyline, it performs equally well in the garden with strong stamina and good increase. A terrific flower from the Dee Mouse line. Good stalk, fine branching, and up to 5 flowers per stalk. Ghost Story X Dee Mouse \$35.00

ARIL (ONCO HYBRID) IRISES

(Luella Danielson)

FIESTA CHARM—Sdlg. LDP-7-87-1, 14" (35 cm), M. S. satin yellow with brown veining, darker at midrib. Style crests same as S. with brown peppering. F. dense brown veining with much of the same peppering and dotting, giving a brown effect overall. Larger dotting around dark maroon signal; brown beards. This flower is very charming. Won Best Seedling at Las Cruces, NM Mesilla Valley Iris Society show in 1987. I. lortetii X Desert Patina \$15.00

FIRST SERGEANT—Sdlg. LD-07. OH, 12" (30 cm), EM. S. violet-blue, touching. F. greenish white ground showing through coarse black veining. There is a wide bright pink sergeant's stripe on the F. between the maroon beards and the dark red signal, which covers most of the falls. This flower won Best Seedling at the El Paso Iris Society iris show in 1987. The parentage is pure onco, but it has two blooms to the stem, which I've been told is not true with onco irises. I also took a bloom to the Phoenix Convention, and no one could tell me what happened. I. camillae X I. paradoxa. A very good grower here \$20.00

HOLIDAY PUNCH—Sdlg. LD-66. OH, 16" (40 cm), E. S. lavender with prominent dark rose red feather type veining and red midrib. Style arms cream to soft tan. F. darker than S. because of the dense rose red veining. Most of F. is covered with wide bright red signal. From S81-S15 X JP82-3 \$15.00

TITANIC GEM—Sdlg. SL-86-9. OH, 8" (20 cm), EM. S. off-white with sparse sand pink veining. F. very little off-white ground showing through heavy sand pink veining. Much like its pollen parent in color of F. Bright orange signal shows off the whole flower. 80-1-1 X Sand and Snow \$15.00

ARILBRED IRISES

(Luella Danielson)

ORBIT LILY—SD-86-3. OH, 8" (20 cm), E-M. S. white, green veining on strong midrib, violet purple plicata markings on edge. F. cream with violet plicata markings, green yellow signal. Sandy dotting toward signal from brown green beards. Style arms light green; cream crests with violet veining and dotting. Two flowers per stem. Sand and Snow X Aril Classic \$30.00

LAVENDER LEMON—Sdlg. GL-J-80. AB (64+), 30" (78 cm), E-M. S. white ground with yellow halo on S. and F. F. lavender to purple splash at beards and same color veining at hafts. Yellow style crests; yellow beards tipped purple inside flower; slightly ruffled. (Genetic Leader x I. stolonifera) X (I. jordana x sdlg. 143). HC '87 \$20.00

BRONZE FALCON—Sdlg. GL-J-2. AB (64+), 30" (78 cm), E-M. S. deep rust tinged bronze with a touch of blue at midrib. F. deeper rust color with a neon purple splash at the blue beards. Light brown crests and purple blue style arms. Sib to Lavender Lemon HC 1987 \$20.00

HOOPLA—Sdlg. GL-SJ-81. AB (64+), 30" (78 cm), E-M. S. white ground on S. and F. with yellow hoop-like rim on S. and F. Light cream crests. F. has light lavender splash, turning to blue at yellow tipped beards. Sib to Lavender Lemon. \$20.00

The latter three arilbred irises were seen in bloom as seedlings at the Phoenix Convention. All three are sister seedlings, and they bloom with the tall bearded irises. Therefore, they offer a good chance on the show bench.

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**THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONDENSED
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1987**

CASH IN BANK, SEPTEMBER 30, 1986

Operating Funds	97,501
Restricted Funds	82,773

180,274

INCOME, 10/1/86—9/30/87

122,142

EXPENSES, 10/1/86—9/30/87

(129,863)

172,554

CASH IN BANK, SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

Operating Funds	81,683
Restricted Funds	90,871

172,554

INCOME

Membership Dues	55,826
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Bulletin

Advertising	13,804
Back Issues	572
Other	44

14,419

Registrations

3,490

Sales

AIS Publications	12,215
Other Books & Mdse	7,960

20,175

Committees

8,858

Section Dues

4,187

Gifts

3,025

Earned Interest

9,559

Other

2,604

122,142

EXPENSES

Bulletin	52,872
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Secretary

1,221

Membership Secretary

10,365

Registrar

4,024

Sales Director

AIS Publications	6,044
Other Books & Mdse.	8,074
General Expenses	1,552

15,669

Other Officers

1,085

Committees

24,167

RVP Expenses

554

Sections Expenses

205

Section Dues

4,263

Accounting & Insurance

7,322

Other

8,116

129,863

Authorized Salaried Personnel:

Advertising Editor	3,000
Editor	2,400
Membership Secretary	2,400
Registrar-Recorder	<u>3,000</u>

10,800

MTB Amoena Plicatas

Lois Kennedy, Alabama

In 1972 the members of the North Alabama Iris Society launched a program to learn more about the various classes of irises. Each member selected one or more type and agreed to buy and grow a representative selection and study their characteristics, reporting back to the club members on their findings. Also, many members agreed to hybridize within their selected group in an effort to improve them. I selected the Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) class and immediately joined a Robin and purchased a collection of registered varieties.

In my hybridizing efforts I elected to work with both the diploid and tetraploid types. AACHEN ELF, a diploid from TOPSY TURVY X FLORIDOR, is the only one introduced yet. At that time there were very few tetraploids on the market, consisting mainly of derivatives of *I. aphylla*. It was obvious that it would take some time to produce a tetraploid MTB that would be worthy of introduction.

At the beginning I set as a primary hybridizing goal the development of a tetraploid MTB amoena plicata. I expected to get, as a by-product, many selfs, bi-colors and plicatas. I chose to use registered cultivars and selected forms of *I. aphylla* to obtain low branching and pencil stems. Also, I selected MEXICALI and low amoena plicata seedlings to build the amoena plicata factor into the line.



137-80-4.

Too large flowers, high foliage.



133-82-9. Blooms a little large.

The first two years were spent in obtaining and growing the stock selected for the hybridizing program. In 1974 I made many crosses between MEXICALI and various forms and registered varieties of *I. aphylla*, but only one bi-color was obtained. It was from SHRINKING VIOLET X MEXICALI. This seedling (474-74-8) is in the background of all the seedlings to date. When it bloomed in 1976 I crossed it back to MEXICALIA but got no takes. I did get a take on a selected form of *I. aphylla*, but the plicata factor was so diluted that the seedlings from that cross have not produced any amoena plicata seedlings.

Seedling 474-74-8 is a slow grower and did not bloom again until 1979. That year I put its pollen on MEXICALI and many tall bearded amoena plicatas. These same type crosses were made in 1980 also. A few amoena plicata seedlings were obtained in the height range for MTBs but the flowers were too large and the foliage too high. Seedling 137-80-4 (see photo) is representative of this group of seedlings.

The best of the above amoena plicatas were crossed together in the hope that one or more seedlings with the desired characteristics would be obtained. Some of them have bloomed with some improvements over their parents. Seedling 133-82-9 (see photo) is representative of this line of breeding. It is 19 inches with the top bloom above the foliage and has sufficient branching to produce three blooms at the same time. Still, its blooms are a little larger than the blooms usually produced on diploid MTBs. Its stalk is adequate for the MTB class.

There seems to be some connection between low branching and solid colors, particularly the dark colors so characteristic of *I. aphylla*. Seedling 138-82-11 (see photo) is representative of this group. Also, larger flowers seem to be another characteristic of this group.

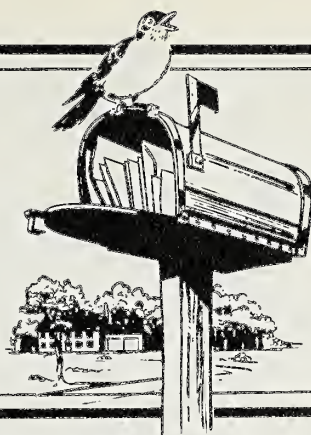
Many of the seedlings which bloomed in 1985 represent the fifth generation in this line. As a rule, the flowers are still too large and the foliage too high. There are exceptions for any of these faults (high foliage, large flowers, large stems, no branching or high branching, etc.) but so far I have not seen a seedling that "has it all together." However, as an eternal optimist, I expect to see the perfect MTB amoena plicata bloom in the new seedling patch next spring.



138-82-11.

Low branching, large flowers.

ROUND ROBIN



Sam Reece, 1843 E. Brown Ave., Fresno, CA 93703

Tall Bearded

Paul J. Smith, Pleasant Grove, UT: We often hear complaints about the fact that the iris bloom season isn't any longer, but for me that is much of their charm. While they are in bloom I immerse myself in their beauty, seeing all I can as often as I can. When the season is over, I feel "full" and don't wish that they lasted longer. I don't value tulips, daffodils or lilacs any less because their bloom season isn't longer, and I feel the same about irises.

James Don Marks, Hollidaysburg, PA: Bonemeal is the only fertilizer I have used other than Nitron, which I think is overrated. I have never used Superphosphate because I was afraid of using too much.

Paul J. Smith, Pleasant Grove, UT: A recent article in the American Rose Magazine indicates that the highly processed steamed version of bonemeal available today is of little value. Another article in the same issue recommends its virtues.

John Edwards, Erwin, TN: BRIDE'S HALO, SUNRISE SUNSET, ORANGE VISTA, SNOW MOUND and WINTER OLYMPICS put on the best display this year. I had 700 clumps bloom, so it is hard to pick the best.

Marjorie Richards, Donaldson, Indiana: It was a good iris season here for the first time in 3 or 4 years. Naturally it could have been better, since I still have many which have never bloomed and some which haven't bloomed for a long time. However, many bloomed for the first time, even some of those which had been planted last fall. It was exciting seeing so many new ones, seeing if they matched their descriptions, how long the blooms lasted and best of all, their various fragrances. I thoroughly enjoyed all the sniffing I did to prepare the report for the Fragrance Robin. I got a "second opinion" on some I wanted to be sure about. I've been very interested in grape scents, and was surprised by BLUE SHIMMER's nice grape scent. It was my first iris with grape fragrance and I wanted to be sure I wasn't just imagining it. I asked my 14-year old granddaughter to sniff several in that group to see if we came to the same conclusion. We did. She even went one step further . . . an orange-scented, SON OF STAR, she decided was like Mandarin oranges, not just the ordinary kind! BEUNITA, we agreed, was pure lemon extract, very strong, lovely! I had one iris, WILD WEST, which smelled like cocoa.

Janet Merrill, Epsom, N.H.: Everything bloomed at once again this June, from SDBs to Siberians, due to some crazy weather in late May. Several bloomed very short. I was very happy to see so many of the new ones put in a year ago.

FREDA LAURA is a lovely ruffled light pink. MELOS is a deeper pink with a faint flush of peach. DRAGON'S LAIR is amber and maroon with bright red edges on the styles, and NIGHT LADY is very dark and bloomed late here. SIMPLY PRETTY was very short, but had 12 blooms on one stalk with two branches starting at the base so the flowers were all crowded together. I hope next year it will bloom as it should.

Ralph Gelbart, Omaha, NE: I find judging irises according to fragrance a good idea. I feel in addition to good growing qualities, an iris should also have a good fragrance.

Orval Roach, Tekama, NE: I really feel that the joy of growing beautiful irises outweighs receiving the prizes at a show, but the competition spurs one on to do the best job of growing. I view my goal of becoming an iris judge as one means to the end of enabling me to know when I am growing a superior iris.

Medians

Paul J. Smith, Pleasant Grove, UT: BABY BLESSED always tries to fall bloom here and its success depends on how early we have the first hard frost. The form leaves a little to be desired, but it blooms well each spring.

Janice Badger, Chattanooga, TN: I love FAIRLIGHT. It has been a favorite of mine for years. The only fault I can find with it is the way all the bloom clumps at the top, but that is minor compared to color, fragrance and form. I love the ruffling too. When the cold weather came, alot of SDBs were in bud but only a few in bloom. BANBURY RUFFLES froze back, but several clumps of LITTLE BLACKFOOT in a more sheltered position bloomed in the snow. By April 4th I had a row of pretty, silvery IBs, SEA PATROL, blooming with the tulips. ULTRASONIC was early and bright, and very prolific with a one year clump producing 8 or 9 little stalks. KAYO was the first of my new SDBs to bloom and was a cute, bright little thing. Yellow with blue beards and smelling like lilacs.

Betty Swanson, Pierre, S. Dakota: MICHAEL PAUL is his usual standout self. This little iris has the most perfect form, so sleek, and buds all up and down the stalk. Paul Black's SMALL FLASH and TIGER PRINT are consistent too, but my personal taste is not for the open standards. MELON HONEY and THUNDER EAGLE have increased to the point where they're out in the lawn and they are blooming there!

There are times when I'm tempted to just go primarily with the medians and dwarfs, they do so well here. The way an MDB will pop back never ceases to amaze me. I ordered ZIPPER, and when I shook it out of the excelsior the two tiny iris plants looked gone. I didn't want to put them out in the 108 F heat, so I kept them inside for almost two weeks. Then I planted them one morning, making a small tent over them to keep the hot sun off. I'm pleased to report that both are healthy and sending up tiny fans all over the place, six on one little plant.

Judith Mogil, Canoga Park, CA: Since we do not have a freeze factor, I try to get SDBs with the least amount of pumila breeding; my observation being that full pumilas don't always do as well here. We have many reblooming SDBs, and a few like LITTLE BLACKFOOT and especially BABY BLESSED bloom off and on all year, including our very hot summers.

Bob Pries, High Ridge, MO: PIPESTONE was beautiful, a most unusual color, true to its name and nicely formed. I tried crossing it with BRIGHT VISION, which appeared to me to be the pinkest flower in the garden. RITA KINSELLA was a nicely formed soft yellow which really outdid itself. Two stood out as strong, clear lemon yellows, EASY MONEY and SUNDOLL. EASY MONEY held its flowers high and with a lot of grace. A great iris for unusual coloration was HOODWINK. This drew the most comments from visitors even though it had but a single flower open. It is a bright light lavender with an intense brown wash over the center of the falls.

Larry Harder, Ponca, NE: I've always made crosses when the flowers were ready—and it takes a few peeks into the stigmatic lip to find out when they are ready. When the lip is moist, it's ready to take the pollen. I do most of my crosses in the morning. Sometimes, if the flowers are late opening, I'm early for the flower to be ready, but I'll place the pollen on the lip and hope it will still be there when the flower is ready to accept it.

I wish I could say all kind words about the irises I grow. Some of the very lovely ones this year were BRIGHT VISION, HONEY GLAZED, PAUL, ZAB, PENNYSWORTH, JACK NORRICK, FRED CLAUSSEN, GIMLET, FROM THE HEART, WAMPUM (the clump of this was "wow") SAVVY, LITTLE TROOPER, FLIRTY MARY, PAINTED HILLS, SILVER RIM, SNO JO, ROSY EYES, RITA KINSELLA, PLUM PERFECT, and COPS. And the list could go on!

Border Bearded Hybridizing

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA: We are using small tallies to "breed down" for borders. While selecting down for size, some runts may be involved, but that need not be the rule if a large enough quantity of seedlings is involved. At least 500-1000 seedlings should be grown if reasonable quality selections are going to be made—with an eye to introductions.

Stability in size has been a big problem. A perfectly beautiful Border one year may shoot up to become a full blown TB the next. Flower size also has shown significant change from year to year. I think it takes about four bloom seasons to determine if one has a 'legal' Border iris.

Breeding BB X BB is no problem at all. MAROON BELLS X SOMETHING SPECIAL gave us a lovely flared and fluted violet with an orange wash on the hafts. If height holds, we are on the way. SOMETHING SPECIAL X TANGERINE SUNSET (small tall) has given us a 26" border with excellent vigor. Falls are a little narrow (TANGERINE SUNSET influence) but we are getting loads of pods off it, going for wider form. We are breeding BROWN LASSO with orange BBs to get a tangerine bearded yellow.

Hal Stahly, Grand Blanc, MI: I'm inclined to believe that the sort of BB I want will have to come from TB breeding. TBs in general have, by selection, become very large flowers. If selective breeding can do that, it should work as well in the opposite direction. My own limited experience seems to verify that idea. Selecting smaller seedlings, or registered clones, as parents does produce smaller offspring. But there are some problems with this procedure.

For one thing, some of the smaller offspring are just runts, that lack vigor and bud count. They also often seem reluctant to bloom regularly. The selection process must be done carefully.

An idea I've toyed with is going back to some TBs of 20 to 40 years ago. Some of them were quite small and in proportion, and perhaps they could produce smaller progeny. There would, of course, be some loss in form, ruffling, substance, etc. I'll bet things like MARY RANDALL, RIPPLING WATERS, and other such irises could be useful.

I have been making some crosses specifically for BBs in the past couple of years, getting some results from using FIDDLER, which showed up for me in TB crosses. FIDDLER is very good about staying in class and it seems to produce seedlings that do too. But they are all in the same color range—varying shades of fairly deep violet-toned red. I'm trying to cross out to some other colors with it.

Carl Boswell, Concord, CA: There are 5 IBs I like to hybridize with that have given me good BBs. One is HONEY GLAZED. Out of a cross of HONEY GLAZED with LITTLE BIT ORCHID, 52 seeds were planted; 21 were IBs, 2 TBs, and 25 BBs. Of these borders, 8 were yellow amoenas—2 flowers too large, 6 flowers BB size. Three were reverse yellow amoenas—flower size small, need more work. Seven were peach, pink, brown and orange bitones—flower size BB or smaller. Six were bicolors, with peach or pink standards, falls brown or orange with light blue line in the center, BB size. One was a tan amoena (standards smoky white) with flowers IB size.

I believe there are too many BB that should have been introduced as short TBs, and there is a place for short tall.

Teresa Martin, Medina, OH: I've worked mostly with reds, not trying for BBs. The red crosses sometimes have a small seedling among the progeny. I'm still trying out 79al, which has always been small with four or five bloomstalks, but it didn't look quite stylish enough. Last year it was much larger than usual. CHERRY BOMB is registered but not introduced. It is different but a slow grower. I hate to give up on it.



Barb Gibson has done an outstanding job of recently revitalizing the median robin program for AIS. Currently in flight are two general median robins and a BB hybridizing robin. In addition, an MTB robin is about to begin. Barb also reports that an IB and an SDB robin may also be started up. New members for any of these robins are always welcome—to join one, please contact Barbara Gibson, 13253 McKeighan Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY EXHIBITION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING 1987 SHOW SEASON

TALL BEARDED

Adams, Randy	Nefertiti x Dualtone	Lineberger, Everette	QHT 120
Aitken, Terry	82 T 127	Lough, Lottie	14-24-83
Allen, James R.	S 11 C	Lyons, Ray	82-20-6
Ames, Hyrum	A-824	McWhirter, Alan	82ZZ-22
Bingham, James	84-1-4	M.A.D. Gardens	B82-784D
	85-9-23		M83-817A
Black, Paul	872A		8133
Bohrer, Roy	81-TE		8113J
Borglum, Dana	A-69-1		8248
Brown, B. J.	25-85	Mahan, Clarence	0184A
Brown, Opal	823 B20	Miller, Dave	DM83-1B
Burke, James	84-BU "D"	Miller, Roger & Lynda	5884B
Byeers, Monty	094-2B		3285
Chapman, Bill	8410-17		4385B
Colletti, Peter J.	77-126-G	Nichell, Frank	1984-14-C
Doehne, Walter	3-85-10	Osborne, Manley	6-2-5
Doonan, Sara	84-18-17	Phillips, William	83-16
	83-22-11	Pierce, John	87-3
	83-25-1	Rhodes, E. Rex	RA 1-83
Dunstone, Dan	83-1-2	Roberts, Barbara	F-106-A
Ensminger, Allen	81-24		F-119-B
Fan, Frank	F119-85	Satterwhite, Dale D.	#30TB
Fort, Lyle	82-4-A	Schaefer, Marvin	S-1-87-L
Gaddie, Gene	140-1	Shockey, Howard	84-201-C
	175-6		83-213-A
Ghio, Joe	Impressionist	Sides, Gary	B78-Ds9C
	Indiscreet	Stephenson, Fred	83-18A
Hager, Ben	T-4234-BGAM	White, Ted	84-N-3
Hall, Earl	86-29-23	Williams, Peggy	W-4-79-1
	86-29-2C	Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	86-89
Hammer, Bernard	85-206	Zurbrigg, Lloyd	0182
Hedgecock, Jim	(Horned) 83-68		
	84-76	BORDER BEARDED	
Hessel, Bill	711	Dunn, Mary	M83-817AA
Hommel,	79-10-A	Dyer, Floyd	D-51-84-B
Hummel, Jim	80-20-1	Hummel, Jim	81-58N
	80-20L	Lyons, Ray	Artesian Lady
Innerst, Sterling	1669-2	Smith, Paul	PJS84-1-9
James, Wilford (Mike)	86-20	Stadler, J. D.	H33/13
Johnson, Dale	K-183		
Johnson, Royal	R-74	MINIATURE TALL BEARDED	
Kegerise, Mrs. Richard	107-84	Johnson, Dale	MT 419-1
Knudtson, John	84-10-Y1	Nichols, John	81-104-85
	84-10-0	Probst, Ann & Riley	MTB 9-27-49
	83-1	Steele, Katharine	584-02-001
LaBach, Bill	A-107		
Lazarus, Brian	36B	INTERMEDIATE BEARDED	
Leavitt, Melvin	87-1	Briscoe, Harley	83-22-G
	M-87-2	Spahn, Fred	8301

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

Albers, Donovan	8580
	8200C
	8401
	8408
Briscoe, Harley	80-43A
Miller, Roger & Lynda	1185G
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	83-14
	86-21

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

Sindt, David	French Toast
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	Morris

SIBERIAN

Briscoe, Harley	77-6B
Jahnke, Fred	P-SE-5
Johnson, Dale	S-42
Robaczak, G.	86-9
Schafer, Marty/Sacks, Jan	S-85-9-1
Steinheimer, Morris	A-87-5
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	86-87
Zurbrigg, Lloyd	74

LOUISIANA

Arny, Charles	Bit-RBR-1-82
Chenoweth, Valera	WY-44
Lineberger, Everette	QHLA-101
Mertzweiler, Joe	T-19-79

CALIFORNICAE

Aitken, Terry	82 PC 7
Briody, Vic	86 08-3
Ghio, Joe	In The Money
	103
	PK-110R
Meek, Duane	P-11-1-87
	P 35/86
Weiler, John	DAW-85

JAPANESE

Ackerman, William	A4 (1-119)
	A6-3
Aitken, Terry	83-JI-12
Copeland, Jill	86-9
Dienstbach, Marie	#16
Ensata Gardens	J85K-2
	J85M-1
	85B-13
Mahan, Clarence	7-1
Rowland, Virginia	R-40
Thomas, Margaret	T-86-1

SPURIA

Corlew, Glen	8-6B
Ghio, Joe	SP-82-166

ARIL

Danielson, Luella	LDP-87-1
	10-2-4
Shockey, Howard	83-111-G
	83-64-7A
	82-28-5D
	83-52-7A
	82-109-4A
	83-29-7A
	75-14-7A
	82-114-4C

SPECIES

Schafer, Marty/Sacks,	Jan SP-85-2-1
	(Versicolor)

Late addends—From Fall Shows

Noe, Norman	74-04-CA (TB)
Reeves, Clem	F 65-1 (MDB)

M.A.D. IRIS GARDEN

of Bob and Mary Dunn for 1988

DIVINE—A different spot pattern. White standards, beards and spot; violet blue falls.

DESIGNER JEANS—Big, bold stonewashed denim blue-violet.

LE FLEUR—Fuchsia rose self; bright orange beards. Bold and showy.

MARGARITA TIME—Improved Forbidden. Ruffled gray-green blend with mauve added.

ZANY—Blue and white irregularly marked plicata. Very classy in the garden.

See our ad in the April AIS Bulletin. The above introductions are \$30.00 each plus \$3 handling and postage. California residents add sales tax. Full descriptions in our April ad.

4828 Jella Way, No. Highlands, CA 95660
(916) 482-0562

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Ridgeway Inn, Memphis, Tennessee

October 30-November 1, 1987

The regular fall meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society was called to order at 8:04 p.m., Friday, October 30, 1987, by President Rasmussen. The following were in attendance during the various sessions: Past President Mullin; Vice Presidents Waite and Williams; Secretary J. Stayer; Directors Copeland, Crick, Gates, Hobbs, W. Machulak; Directors-elect Gristwood and Lineberger; Committee Chairmen Pettijohn and Rice; Membership Secretary Ramsey; Registrar Nelson; Publication Sales Director C. Lack: RVPs A. Waite (1), Miller (6), A. Machulak (8), Clough (9), Ames (12), Howard (17), Roderick (18), and L. Stayer (22); RVP-elect Christopher (7); SIS President John, and guests J. Copeland (6), M. Wolfe, C. Wolfe, Mayberry, M. Collins, R. Collins, Li. Browning, La. Browning, Vines, and Russell (7), K. Jensen, C. Jensen, R. Kinsella, and S. Kinsella (9), and K. Lack (22).

President Rasmussen welcomed all present and reminded them that comments are encouraged, but that only elected directors and those officers who have a vote may participate in voting.

Recording secretary Barr was unable to attend the meeting, so President Rasmussen appointed a secretary pro-tem for the meeting. Gates recorded the minutes from the Friday session, and Mullin recorded the remainder of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting in Phoenix were approved as published.

Secretary Stayer reported no additional nominations had been received for director, so Gristwood, Williams, Lineberger, and Stayer were duly elected with terms expiring in 1990. Stayer moved, Machulak seconded that the Board express thanks to retiring directors Corlew and Rockwell. Motion passed. Rasmusen resigned his position as elected director and appointed Olive Rice to fill the remainder of his term which expires in 1989. Waite moved and Machulak seconded approval of the appointment. Motion passed.

Rasmussen reported on action taken since the Phoenix meeting which included approval of Marian Schmuhl as guest editor for the January BULLETIN, the appointment of Ron Mullin as the new BULLETIN editor to begin with the April, 1988, issue, and the vote of the Board to not have a run-off election for the Dykes medal in 1987. No action had been taken by the Executive Committee since Phoenix.

Rasmussen reported on letters received from overseas members, including one which asked about the possibility of paying extra money to get the Bulletins on time. Ramsey reminded the Board that this is possible according to past policy. Rasmussen reported having given permission to the Flemish Iris Society to use pictures from THE WORLD OF IRISES so long as AIS is given credit in the publication. Rasmussen also informed the Board of a letter he had received from Rural Route Tours concerning AIS sponsorship of a tour of Australia. The group was advised to contact the Australian Iris Society and were advised to advertise their tour in the AIS BULLETIN.

Additional letters were read, but they did not require action by the Board or the president.

Stayer reported that Maureen Foster is the winner of the British Iris Society silver medal, that Region 20 had made their annual contribution of 15% of their rhizome sales and the gift had been gratefully acknowledged, that Region 14 had made a contribution to the computer fund, and that a letter from a West German library had pointed out the error in the volume number beginning with the October, 1986, BULLETIN. The correction in volume number has been made with the October, 1987, issue.

Stayer commented on the articles which have appeared in various publications recently. Approximately 150 letters of inquiry have been received as a result of one of these.

Ramsey presented a report on the membership which showed a net gain of 327 to a total of 7750. Region 14 maintains its position as the region with the highest membership, 679. Following in order are Regions 7, 4, 18 and 6 with memberships exceeding 500, and Regions 17, 15, and 22 with memberships exceeding 400.

Ramsey asked authorization to buy hardware to increase the computer memory from 358K to 640K and to add an 82086 chip. Lineberger moved approval of the purchase. Waite seconded, and the motion passed.

Ramsey further stated that the Board needs to consider securing help for the membership secretary. The type of help needed has not been ascertained. It was suggested that copies of the programs be distributed to some AIS members for protection in the event that the records in Wichita be lost. Lineberger moved that the executive committee be authorized to grant approval for help for Ramsey when it is determined the type which would be most beneficial. Stayer seconded, and the motion passed.

Ramsey discussed problems concerning changes in the status of life memberships as a result of various situations. It was agreed that a committee should be appointed to study this. Ramsey further stated that a change in the six week deadlines is needed and that she will be informing RVPs of these changes.

The treasurer's report was distributed by Stayer and a letter from Treasurer Thoolen was read. Waite moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Lineberger seconded, and the motion passed. Francesca Thoolen, in this letter, asked to retire from her position as treasurer of the Society at the end of 1987.

Pettijohn, Foundation Liaison, reported that contributions are needed since costs are exceeding incomes. He reported that the research in Iowa will be ending this year while the study at the University of Nebraska will extend one more year. The Foundation has received several books from the estate of Helen McCaughey and these books will be marked as the property of the Foundation and placed in the library at Ponca, Nebraska. Stayer moved that the books received from the McCaughey collection be placed in the library at Ponca until such time as the Foundation wants them returned. Machulak seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting recessed at 9:40 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on October 31.

Registrar Nelson reported 714 new iris registrations for the year and asked the Board to determine the number of copies and the sales price for the 1987 Registrations and Introductions booklet. Stayer moved that 750 copies be printed. Machulak seconded, and the motion passed. Stayer moved that the sales of the book be \$4. Machulak seconded, and the motion passed.

Publication Sales Director Lack presented reports showing sales of \$18,427.23 for the year and reported that the 1979 Checklists are no longer available.

Williams moved that Lack use his own discretion in determining the class to use in mailing back issues of the BULLETIN. Lineberger seconded. Motion passed.

Affiliates Chairman Copeland reported 132 approved affiliates and presented a report showing the totals by region.

Awards Chairman Waite reported that ballots were mailed to 952 judges with 742 returned by the July 10 deadline. No Dykes medal was awarded for the year because no iris received the necessary 15% of the votes cast. The Board voted not to have a run-off election. Only three varieties received the required 65 votes to receive the Award of Merit in the tall bearded class. A comparison of last year's voting record to this year's showed that judges simply did not vote for as many varieties as they had in the past, with many voting for far fewer irises than allowed in certain categories. It was suggested that poor weather at bloom time in many parts of the country may have resulted in fewer

irises being seen by a group of judges who felt that they had not seen the eligible irises enough to evaluate them.

Reports were received from all 24 regions, and several overseas members voted the annual Symposium. Twenty-four per cent of the members voted the Symposium ballot.

Some RVPs asked why write-in votes were a part of the Symposium ballot since counting them was a time-consuming task and none ever made the list. After discussion, Machulak moved and Mullin seconded that the write-in portion of the Symposium ballot to discontinued. Motion passed.

Waite presented a proposal from the Spuria Iris Society asking that the spuria irises be elevated to AM status and the Nies Award become the Nies Medal in 1989. Waite moved that this proposal be referred to committee. Stayer seconded. Motion passed.

Stayer reported for Convention Liaison Corlew and presented an invitation from the Greater Portland Iris Society to hold the 1994 AIS Convention in the Portland, Oregon area. Mullin moved, Gates seconded, to accept the invitation. Motion passed. An invitation to hold the 1989 Fall Board meeting in Wichita, Kansas was presented. Gates moved and Crick seconded that the invitation be accepted. Motion passed. An invitation was presented to hold the 1990 Fall Board meeting in Dallas, Texas. Crick moved and Machulak seconded that the invitation be accepted. Motion passed. Hobbs moved and Mullin seconded that the 1991 Fall Board meeting be held in Indianapolis. Motion passed.

Exhibitions Chairman Hobbs reported that 167 shows were approved and reports were received from 147 with 14 additional shows being cancelled. No report was received on the others. Vanity was the recipient of the Nelson Award, having won Best in Show at five shows. Hobbs reported that all shows were variety shows this year with no color classified shows scheduled.

Stayer read a report from Historical Chairman Harder in which he discussed the items being received, the cooperation of the Ponca Library, and needs for the coming year.

The report of Honorary Awards Chairman Mullin was postponed until later in the meeting.

Williams had no report from the Judges Handbook Revision Committee and moved that the committee be dissolved and the duties assigned to the chairman of Judges and Judges Training. Gates seconded. The motion passed.

Judges and Judges Training Chairman Crick presented a report with various statistics on judges and recommended approval of the 1988 roster of judges which included the following list of new Master Judges:

Region 5	Region 14	James Hawley
Mrs. Frank L. Johnson	Carl H. Boswell	Mrs. William M. Rhodes
Mrs. R. G. Stockton	Mrs. Carl H. Boswell	Region 23
Mrs. A. D. Wilder	Mrs. Evelyn Hayes	Robert D. Steele
Region 6	Region 17	Region 24
Mrs. Albert Fillmore	Mrs. W. D. Brady	Grady Kennedy
Mrs. D. Olen Rawdon	Mrs. Frank Courtney	Mrs. Grady Kennedy
Region 7	Frank L. Stephens	
Mrs. Glenna Johnson	Mrs. John Wade	
Miss Lucy Carrington Jones	Region 18	Australia: Leslie J. Donnell
Region 8	Mrs. Leo Boulanger	
Walter Carlock	James W. Morris	
Region 13	Region 22	
Gerald L. Richardson	Perry Dyer	
Ms. Jayne K. Ritchie	Mrs. James Gildea	

Rice seconded Crick's motion, and the roster was approved.

Rasmussen appointed Miller, A. Machulak, and Roderick as a committee to count ballots for Emeritus Judge and reported the approval of two new Emeritus Judges for 1988 as a result of the vote: Mr. Keith Keppel of Region 14 and Mr. Ronald Mullin of Region 22.

After reporting problems arising from judges who both entered and judged the same show, a practice which is discouraged if it can be avoided, Crick moved that a judge not be allowed to judge a show in which he has entered for competition. Copeland seconded. Motion failed.

Williams moved and Crick seconded that before approval is given for a show schedule, a statement be required in each show schedule about whether a judge will be allowed to enter and judge. Motion passed.

Williams moved and Stayer seconded that anyone who serves as an instructor at a judging school must be at least an Accredited Judge. The motion was approved.

Membership Contest Chairman Lineberger reported that six regions have taken part in the membership contest for 1987 and that one overseas member is participating and doing quite well.

Stayer reported for Policy Chairman Barr about current work in this area which involves entering information on Board action into a computer under various headings.

Public Relations Chairman Rice discussed advertising of the 1988 AIS calendars and tentative plans for future promotional items.

The meeting recessed until 1:30 p.m.

Stayer reported for Robins Chairman Badger that eighteen divisions are currently active.

RVP Counselor Machulak stated that he needs minutes from all region meetings to stay informed. Region by-laws should also be provided to the counselor.

Rasmussen opened the meeting for discussion of a problem presented to the Board from one of the regions. Several members present spoke to the Board. The Board recessed to executive session and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Scholarship Chairman Gates restated the rules for awarding the AIS scholarship and presented a request for early payment of the second half of funds to a previous winner. Lineberger moved and Crick seconded that AIS grant a second thousand dollars to Jerald Scott Bricker of Arizona State University at an earlier date than previously stipulated. Motion passed after discussion showed that such action did not violate scholarship rules as presently written since Mr. Bricker has completed the first half of his work.

Section Liaison Waite reported a question from one of the sections concerning interest earned by that section. The president agreed to write a letter to the section to explain that AIS tax exemption does not cover sections.

Stayer reported for Slides Chairman Shockey. The number of slide sets available has been reduced to eight after a review of past rentals showed that this was a sufficient number.

Rasmussen reported that Test Garden Chairman Jones will be sending a letter to the directors about test gardens. Williams moved that AIS discontinue the test garden program as it now operates and that the President appoint a committee to study alternatives. Stayer seconded, and the motion passed.

Youth Chairman Gates reported that reports are going to each RVP concerning youth members and requested that RVPs appoint a youth chairman if they have not already done so. Roderick, RVP Region 18, explained a new youth award which will be presented in that region.

Waite reported for the Awards Revision Committee and moved that any iris re-classified after being awarded an Honorable Mention or higher award shall be declared ineligible for further awards until it has been voted an HM in the new classification. The HM and any higher award received before reclassification shall be automatically voided with the period of eligibility for awards beginning anew. Lineberger seconded, and the motion passed.

Stayer read a report from the Library Procedures Committee. No recommendations were presented for action at this time.

The Color Pattern Definition Committee made no recommendations for Board action.

Stayer reported that the first application has been filed with IRS for 501-c-3 status. This application pointed out a need for revision of the rules on the scholarship award. Gates moved that the following statement be added to those rules: "AIS Directors, employees, scholarship committee members, and their immediate families are not eligible for the scholarship. Winners will be selected on merit and will not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, age, race, religion, or ethnic origin." Machulak seconded. The motion passed.

Hobbs moved and Copeland seconded that the cost of all youth and adult show medals be \$25 per set (one silver, one bronze) or \$12.50 for one medal. Motion passed.

Stayer and Ramsey discussed the difficulties involved with the post office and mailing, then detailed the process that must be followed in the annual postal audit. Williams then moved that all BULLETINS mailed by Publication Sales Director Lack with a publication date within the past twenty-four months be mailed third class rather than book rate. Machulak seconded, and the motion was approved.

Mullin reported that OH-K Fast Print in Omaha had submitted the lowest bid for printing a new membership book and that the company was willing to do more of the preparatory work than the other companies. Rice moved that five hundred copies of the membership list be printed. Stayer seconded, and the motion passed.

Copeland moved that the sales price be set to recover cost and postage when such costs can be determined. Lineberger seconded. The motion passed.

Rasmussen reported on steps being taken to present a request for a seventy-fifth anniversary stamp from the U.S. Postal Service.

The meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Rasmussen surrendered the chair to Waite for the nominations for President. Stayer nominated Rasmussen. Rice seconded. Machulak moved and Crick seconded that nominations cease. The motion passed, and Rasmussen was elected.

Rasmussen assumed the chair and asked for nominations for first vice president. Machulak nominated Waite, and Rice seconded the nomination. Stayer moved and Lineberger seconded that nominations cease and Waite be elected. Motion passed.

Crick nominated Williams for second vice president. Machulak seconded. Lineberger moved and Waite seconded that nominations cease and Williams be elected. Motion passed.

Rice nominated Stayer for secretary. Gates seconded. Gristwood moved that nominations cease and Stayer be elected. Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

Waite nominated Glenn Corlew for treasurer. Copeland seconded. Machulak nominated Lynda Miller. Williams seconded. Stayer moved that nominations cease. Rice seconded. Motion passed. After a call for a written ballot, Rasmussen appointed A. Waite and Howard to count the ballots. Rasmussen announced that Corlew had been elected as treasurer.

The meeting recessed at 9:45 p.m. for executive session to discuss the awarding of Honorary Awards and reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

Rasmussen announced that the Board had unanimously approved the awarding of the Distinguished Service Medal to Ellene Rockwell of Region 17 and that the Board of Directors Award was awarded to the Siberian iris White Swirl.

Rasmussen recommended the appointment of the following Administrative Officers:

Registrar: Kay Nelson

Membership Secretary: Carol Ramsey

Recording Secretary: Claire Barr

Publication Sales Director: C. J. Lack

Mullin moved and Gates seconded that the appointments be approved. Motion passed.

Rasmussen recommended appointment of the following Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Affiliates: Copeland

Public Relations: Rice

Awards: Waite

Registrations: Keppel

Convention Liaison: Williams

Robins: Badger

Exhibitions: Hobbs

RVP Counselor: Machulak

Foundation Liaison: Pettijohn

Scientific: McEwen

Historical: Harder

Scholarship: Gristwood

Honorary Awards: Mullin

Section Liaison: Lineberger

Judges and Judges Training: Crick

Slides: Shockey

Membership Contest: Mary Kearney

Youth: Gates

Policy: Barr

Stayer moved and Hobbs seconded that the appointments be approved. Motion passed.

The meeting recessed at 11 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 a.m. on November 1.

Rasmussen announced that the new BULLETIN editor would be allowed to name staff members.

Williams moved that Curley Printing of Nashville, Tennessee, be used for printing the July, 1988, BULLETIN. Copeland seconded. Motion passed.

Stayer moved and Rice seconded that the Board pass a resolution of thanks to Francesca Thoolen for her services to the society. Motion passed.

The Board recessed at 9:30 a.m. to executive session to discuss personnel appointments and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Machulak presented the names of RVPs who have not served three years. Crick moved and Stayer seconded reappointment of those who have not completed three years of service as RVP with Brian Clough of Region 9 as Acting RVP of that region. Motion passed.

Machulak recommended appointment of the following as new RVPs with terms beginning January 1, 1988:

Region 7: Joe Christopher

Region 15: Ralph Strane

Region 10: Mrs. Ed Ostheimer

Region 16: John McMillen

Region 13: Barbara Aitken

Region 24: Sarah Scruggs

Mullin moved and Stayer seconded that the appointments be approved. Motion passed.

Rasmussen appointed Ramsey as chairman of a committee to identify life membership rules and named Mullin to the committee.

Waite was appointed to chair a committee to study the Spuria Iris Society proposal for AM status for spuria irises. Machulak and Lineberger were named as members.

Williams was named to chair a committee to study test garden alternatives with Al Roderick and Hooker Nichols as committee members.

Hobbs was named chairman of a committee to study policy on introduction of irises into commerce with Nelson and Gates as members.

Lineberger moved and Gristwood seconded that the committee assignments be approved. Motion passed.

After discussion and alterations of the proposed budget, Lineberger moved that the amended budget be approved. Waite seconded. Motion passed.

Rasmussen announced the next fall meeting will be held in Fort Texas, on November 4, 5, and 6, 1988.

Rasmussen expressed thanks to the West Tennessee Iris Society for the gracious manner in which they hosted the meeting.

Mullin discussed plans for the annual convention in Oklahoma City May 3-7, 1988.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Catherine Long Gates and Ronald Mullin
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Advertisers

Aitken's Salmon Creek	Cover 3	Mission Bell (Hamblen)	31
Arilian Acres	Cover 2	Okie Iris	48
Bay View (Ghio).	Cover 4	Pleasure (Danielson)	87
British Iris Society	38	Margie Robinson	83
Cottage Gardens	58	Schultz Company	103
Evergreen Garden Labels	88	Seaways/Pope's Perennials.	43
Hillcrest (Nichols).	85	Skyline Farms	34
Kary Gardens	72	Sooner State Iris Society.	11
Keppel.	59, 84	Richard Tasco.	38
M.A.D. Garden	96	Tulsa Area Iris Society	5
Maine Iris Society.	11	Commercial Directory	106

IRIS POST CARDS AVAILABLE

Packets of twelve different iris cards, in color, are now available for \$2.00 a packet, or 3 packets for \$5.00. Checks payable to the American Iris Society should be sent to:

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Mrs. Nate Rudolph

How To Register and Introduce an Iris

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises *except bulbous irises*.

REGISTRATION

1. Write to the AIS Registrar Kay Nelson, P.O. Box 37613, Omaha, Nebraska 68137, for a registration blank, enclosing a check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. Registration fee is \$5.00 for each iris; for each transfer of a name from one iris to another the fee is \$7.50
2. Select a name that has not been previously registered, which may be submitted for approval when you write for the registration blank. You will save time for yourself and for the Registrar if you will first look in the AIS Check Lists and the annual reports of the Registrar since 1979 to see if the name you have chosen has been registered previously. Please also suggest an alternate name. The Registrar will hold an approved name for a short time to enable you to complete the blank and send it back to her, but *a name is not registered until the registration blank is filed and approved by the Registrar*. A registration certificate then will be sent to you.
3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Horticultural Code, and the following names shall not be admissible:
 - a. Names of living persons without the written permission of that person.
 - b. Names of persons including forms of address (that is, JANE DOE, not MRS. JANE DOE).
 - c. Names including numerals or symbols.
 - d. Names beginning with the article "a" and "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
 - e. Abbreviations unless required by linguistic custom.
 - f. Latin names or Latinized forms. However, the AIS custom of using part of the Latin names of a species, namely the specific epithet, as part of the cultivar name when this seems appropriate (e.g. SUSIMAC, from *I. susiana* X IB-MAC), shall be continued.
 - g. Use of trademark or copyrighted names unless previously in common use.
 - h. A slight variation of a previously registered name.
 - i. Names containing more than three words.
 - j. Names that exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. HEAVIEST LACE, TALLEST BLACK).
4. Previously registered names may be re-used provided (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in later parentage registrations, and (c) the new registrant furnishes the Registrar with written statement of permission from the previous registrant.
5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was never used as a parent.

INTRODUCTIONS

An introduction is an offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the American Iris Society *Bulletin* are acceptable mediums of introduction. It is a requisite for the awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. *An iris is not eligible for these awards until two years after its introduction has been recorded with the Registrar*. Send Ms. Nelson a copy of the catalog, list or advertisement and she will acknowledge the fact that the introduction has been recorded. (For irises introduced in the AIS BULLETIN, notify her of the BULLETIN number and page on which the introductory advertisement appears.)

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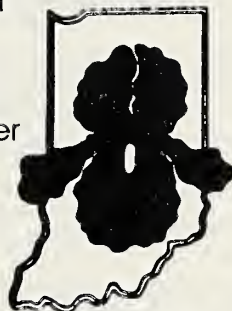
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Send advertising copy and check payable to The American Iris Society to:

Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor
P.O. Box 37613 Omaha, NE 68137



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April	Jan. 15
July	Apr. 15
October	July 15

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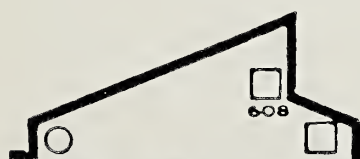
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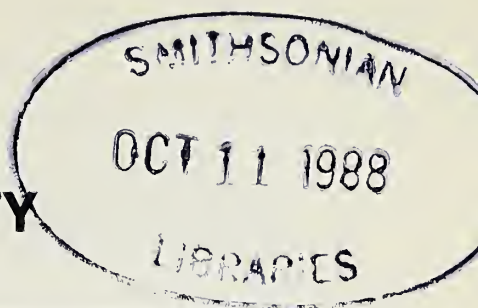


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

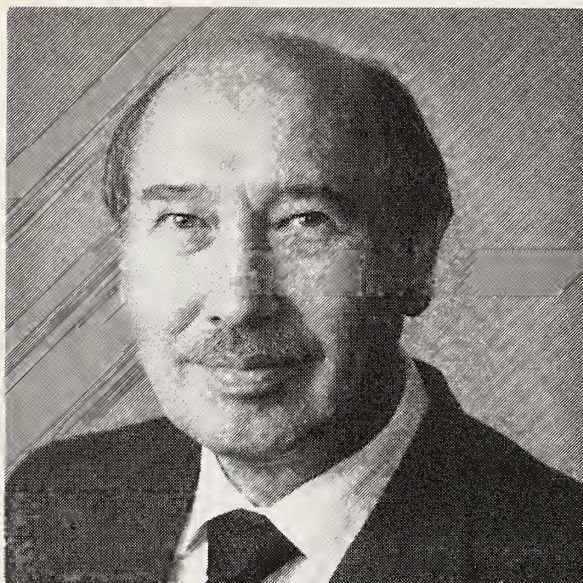
Distinguished Service Medal	5
New Directors.....	6
In Praise of White Swirl.....	Currier McEwen..... 9
New RVPs.....	11
Additional Guests for Memphis	15
Prairie in Bloom-1990 Request for Guests	Allan Ensminger 16
Announcing the Louisiana Iris Book	18
What's Happening to Louisiana Irises	Marie Caillet..... 19
Role of the Abbeville Irises	Joe Mertzweiller..... 25
Growing Louisianas in Arizona	Don Shepard 31
Implications for Louisiana Irises in North Florida.....	Betsy Smith 32
Award of Merit Revelations.....	Ken and Agnes Waite. 33
Growing Louisianas.....	Mary Dunn 34
Growing Louisianas in the Midwest	Melody Wilhoit 37
My Goals in Hybridizing Louisiana Irises	Henry Rowlan..... 44
Growing Louisianas in Southeastern Pennsylvania	Larry Westfall 46
Louisiana Irises in Minnesota	Joan Cooper 48
The Louisianas—A Love Story From Maryland. . .	Doris Simpson 52
1987 Membership Contest Winners.....	Everette Lineberger .. 55
1988 Membership Contest Rules.....	56
There Is Hope	Dot Hujsak 65
In The Bud	Oliver Eldridge..... 68
One Fourth Aril Medians—An Open Field.....	Walter Moores 69
AIS Calendars, A Review	Olive Rice..... 107

Regular Features

President's Message	4	Awards Errata.....	54
Convention Dates	10	Flightlines	57
Membership Rates	17	Advertisers	108
AIS Sales Items	42	Commercial Directory.....	109
In Memoriam.....	43	Advertising Rates.....	119
Contribution Information.....	43	Slides Rental.....	119
Gifts to AIS	50	RVPs	120
Youth Views.....	51		

Front Cover: MARIE CAILLET (Conger '63) growing in the garden of Marie Caillet, Little Elm, Texas. (Photo by Marie Caillet)

Photo Credits: p. 7 lower left, G. Paul Bishop; p. 11 right, Harry Green; p. 14 lower right, Robert O. Johnson; p. 20, 23, 24, 30, Mertzweiller; p. 35, 45, Ron Mullin; p. 39, 41, Melody Wilhoit; p. 66, 67, Dot Hujsak.



From the Desk of the President

James Rasmussen

I am always looking forward to receiving the various publications of the Sections of the American Iris Society. So much informative material is being presented in such interesting articles!

The Louisiana Iris Society of the AIS will be as proud as I am of its latest, most ambitious project: a book, *The Louisiana Iris*, edited by Marie Caillet of Texas and Joseph Mertzweiller of Louisiana. It is a handsome, 240 page, hard-cover volume with 92 full color pictures—a welcome addition to every gardener's book-shelf. We must thank these dedicated people for the countless hours of work they have put into giving us this splendid book!

When the fall issue of THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES came across my desk, I found it to offer tremendous insight into the activities of this group. They are working very hard to increase our awareness of this special type of iris. One interesting article was written by Mr. Mototeru Kamo, a director of the Japan Iris Society. He spent several days last July in Dr. Currier McEwen's garden in Maine studying the tetraploid Japanese irises Dr. McEwen has been hybridizing. An exchange of ideas such as this greatly improves our knowledge of Japanese irises and deepens our interest in these beautiful members of the iris family. The REVIEW makes for good reading; Leland Welsh of Kalamazoo is its able editor.

The fall issue of ALMANAC; SOCIETY FOR PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRIS, edited by Lewis Lawyer of Oakland, California, brought some more exciting stories from another one of our Sections. There was an interesting discussion on the Munzii Blue Pacific Coast Native along with a gorgeous color photograph of this type of iris.

Each of our Sections of the AIS is providing its members with bulletins of its particular interest. Editors furnish a great service to their members. If an AIS member wishes to enjoy an expanded knowledge of iris, that person can easily join the Sections of choice. Where to send your dues is shown elsewhere in this issue. You will receive a generous return in enjoyment from a very modest monetary investment.



DSM Winner For 1988 Ellene Rockwell

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

After serving on the Board of Directors for nine years, the maximum allowed, Ellene Rockwell has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Known as Rokki by her many friends, she received her first named irises as a gift from her husband "Rock" thirty years ago. She joined the New Braunfels Iris Society and AIS and became active in both. She held many offices in the local club and Region 17 before serving as RVP.

Rokki is a Master judge and has given judging schools in sixteen regions. She served as chairman of the committee for revision of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials and has written many articles for publication both locally and in other regions.

Louisiana irises are of special interest to Rokki, and she has served on the Board of the Society for Louisiana Irises. Her work led to her winning that group's service award. Two Louisiana irises, Ellene Rockwell and Rokki, have been named for her.

A native of Dallas, Rokki was reared in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and attended Houston and Texas A & M Universities. When her four daughters were old enough, she taught special education in a private school.

Anyone who knows Rokki knows of her friendliness and her happy attitude. She is dedicated to the society and willing to serve it in any capacity. Only those who have benefitted from her help, understanding, and caring truly know how deserving she is of this award. Rokki gives completely of herself for the betterment of the society.

NEW DIRECTORS

LILLIAN GRISTWOOD

New director Lillian Gristwood was born and reared in the Phoenix, New York, area. She and husband Jim were avid gardeners long before specializing in irises. A local iris auction inspired them to join AIS in 1959, but they did not become active until 1962 when the Central New York Iris Society held a show in their own town of Phoenix. In 1964 their garden was opened to iris viewers and has been a place to see the latest and best ever since. They grow just about every type of iris, starting with *I Reticulata* in early spring through remontants in the fall. Their gardens reflect their interest in all kinds of plants, including shrubs, trees, and vegetables.

Lillian has served as chairman and secretary of the Central New York Iris Society and is secretary at this time. She also served as RVP of Region 2 from 1983 to 1986, then became regional membership chairman.

The Gristwoods have three children and four grandchildren, and they have always enjoyed making trips together. Through the years, they have been active irisarians together. They have traveled all over the state to see gardens, judge shows, participate in iris auctions, and have attended AIS conventions. If there was a job to be done promoting irises, they were happy to do it.

From 1970 to 1976, their spacious lawn was the site of the local iris auction. In 1987 it again became the site for the club's auctions. For many years the Gristwoods have co-chaired the annual educational exhibit at the New York State Fair.

Lillian has served in many capacities, both officially and on a voluntary basis, such as AIS Master judge, regional archivist, chairman of annual meetings, opening her home for meetings, and sharing the love of iris with one and all.

After early retirement from General Electric after twenty-six years of working as a draftsman, she had much more time to devote to her favorite flower. She also keeps busy with church activities by singing in the choir, organizing church suppers, and being chairman of an annual antique show for the benefit of the church. Her other hobbies are knitting, growing prize-winning house plants, and collecting iris memorabilia.

EVERETTE LINEBERGER

Everette Lineberger's first introduction to the changing, ever-expanding world of irises came in 1955 when he discovered Indian Chief, Wabash, and other cultivars which had been planted by the previous pastor in the parsonage yard where he was serving a Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A lady in the congregation took him to a neighboring town where a newspaperman had a hundred or so varieties growing in his garden. Six years later, Everette had as many as that in Charleston, South Carolina, where weather, insects, and diseases made growing bearded irises difficult.

Everette grew up on a farm near Dallas, North Carolina, and graduated from



Everette Lineberger

THREE NEW DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED TO BOARD



Olive Rice



Lillian Gristwood

Lenoir-Rhyne College and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He was married to the former Ann Dry of Albemarle, North Carolina in 1954. They have three adult children, Steve, John David, and Deborah Galli. He was ordained to the Lutheran ministry in 1954 and has served three pastorates in South Carolina, and has been pastor of Saint John's congregation, Spartanburg, since 1953.

Pastor Lineberger became a member of AIS in 1963. He joined the South Carolina Iris Society in 1966 after entering his first show at Fort Lawn, South

Carolina. He later became president of the South Carolina Iris Society and served for three years as editor of the society's newsletter. He helped organize and has served twice as president of the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society. He began his service in Region 5 as newsletter editor and served for five years in that position before becoming RVP in 1980. Following completion of his term as RVP, he was appointed chairman of the Membership Contest Committee of AIS where he served for four years.

Everette grows nearly 500 cultivars of bearded, Louisiana, Siberian, Japanese, spuria, and species irises at his home near Inman, South Carolina. He is a frequent speaker at garden club meetings and will introduce some of his own irises to the public this year. He also grows peonies and daylilies and sells all of these commercially.

In addition to growing flowering plants, he numbers among his hobbies travel, vegetable and fruit production, cooking, photography, and collecting sea shells.

OLIVE RICE

New AIS Director Olive Rice has her roots in the Midwest—not on the banks of the Wabash, but the banks of Little Sugar Creek. She has gardened in Indiana, California, New Mexico (53 tomato plants and one tomato), Indiana again, the nation's capital, and back to California. Of these garden spots, she says that her most vigorous and luminous irises grew in the red clay soil of Maryland. Don't miss the Washington convention in 1991!

As chairman of Public Relations of AIS since 1978, Olive has concentrated her efforts on promoting irises to the general public during those times when there are few irises in flower. "Our magnificent shows and gardens do the ultimate justice to our favorite flower in the late spring months. In our efforts the rest of the year to lead gardeners from Grandma's flags to modern hybrids, we must rely on such tools as displays, posters, calendars, postcards and programs."

Earliest recollections of irises for Olive concern time spent waiting for the school bus: "I would circle my mother's perennial border carefully sorting out and counting the varieties of irises; they numbered 37. My next and fatal exposure to the genus came when our vegetable garden at the vacant lot next door was suddenly invaded by a bulldozer and construction crew. A new house was going up for hybridizer Ed Zickler. Finishing touches on the house waited while Ed built his retaining walls and replanted his irises. I was entranced."

After a stint of copyediting for Federated Societies for Experimental Biology in Bethesda, Olive returned to California to be closer to her three offspring: a textile and graphics designer, a landscape architect, and an architect. She entered the University of California at Berkeley, emerging with an M.A. and life teaching credential. For six years she edited the Region 14 AIS Bulletin, as well as editing the *Almanac* of the Society for Pacific Coast Irises. With her spouse, George Waters, she has spent the past eleven years monitoring the growth of the magazine *Pacific Horticulture*, which he edits.

Board of Directors Award Given to White Swirl

In Praise of White Swirl Currier McEwen

What a superb selection White Swirl is for the Board of Directors Award! Indeed, it possesses to perfection all the qualities the award stands for. Not only is it a lovely flower but, as Rhodes¹ has said, it is "the single most important breeding Siberian iris ever to be introduced." One can truly divide the 28 chromosome Siberians (subseries *Sibericae*) into two informal groups: those introduced before the advent of White Swirl and those after it. Hybridizers, like all admirers of Siberian irises, were attracted by its new form with wide, round, horizontally flaring falls and began to use it in their breeding programs.

There can be little doubt that it was White Swirl that led to the renewed interest in Siberian irises in the nineteen sixties. No Morgan Award had been given from 1955 to 1961, presumably because no cultivar aroused enough interest to qualify, but with the appearance of White Swirl in 1954 interest quickly revived. There was, of course, the normal passing of years for it to become eligible to receive the Morgan Award, which it did in 1962, and that Award has been given every year since then. White Swirl was already being used rather widely as a parent and the Award brought it still more to the attention of hybridizers. The degree and success with which it was used can be judged by looking at the list of Morgan Award winners. By 1970 a seedling from it, William McGarvey's *Dewful*, received the Morgan Award and then, from 1970 to 1987, all but three of the eighteen winners have come directly from White Swirl or have it in their background. It also is a parent of Mrs. Marjorie Brummitt's two English Dykes winners, *Cambridge* and *Anniversary*. What a record!²

When it was registered in 1954 Fred Cassebeer had given it the name *Frank Stubbs*. I am sure *Frank Stubbs* was an excellent man, but I am sure also that we can be glad the name was changed in 1957 to *White Swirl*—certainly a most appropriate descriptive term for it.

Fred Cassebeer was a pharmacist and owner of a drug store in New York City which had been in his family for three generations. His pharmacological training made him very careful in his use of chemical agents to control iris diseases and pests. His chief hybridizing interest was in tall bearded irises and, of course, he did use the necessary protective materials, but did so with great care to avoid run off into the lovely Lake De Forest which bordered his large nursery in West Nyack, New York.

In spite of his scientific background, Fred held the erroneous view, rather widely believed in those days, that it was impossible to make controlled crosses of Siberian irises because it was thought that they could become fertilized even before the bud opened. As a result he never made planned crosses of Siberians although he did of tall bearded irises. With regard to *White Swirl*, he told me that it was one of several thousand seedlings that had

come from seeds from a full bushel basket of "bee set" pods which he and his son John had collected from his large planting of named Siberian irises of other breeders. Hence, unfortunately, neither parent is known; and the various cultivars from which the pods came were too numerous to make speculation profitable. Dr. McGarvey had mentioned to me his hope of deriving some reasonable idea of its parentage through study of its genetic behavior but, to my knowledge, these efforts did not lead to any firm conclusions.

The story of White Swirl illustrates well the fact that an outstanding flower can come from purely chance crosses, but it also illustrates how inefficient that method is, for a vast number of seeds were planted to produce that one great cultivar.

Fred and his lovely wife, Marcia, and their son, John, skillful helpers in the nursery, were warm, friendly people whom it was a joy to visit. Fred was always keenly interested in what was new and discussed with me my beginning efforts to induce tetraploid Siberian irises. In my first year or two of work with colchicine I needed thousands of seeds which my own small garden could not supply. Fred and John collected for me the large number of pods I needed (although not a bushel basket full!).

Fred Cassebeer's last years were sad ones. John, then at college, was killed by a hit-and-run driver, Marcia died after a long illness, and he himself became too disabled to continue in his beloved garden. He never, however, lost interest in irises or in affairs of AIS which he had served as a director and Bulletin editor and which had honored him with its Distinguished Service Medal in 1952 and Hybridizer's Medal in 1968. He has left us a treasury of iris introductions including three other Morgan winners in addition to White Swirl. The Board of Directors Award is a tribute, not only to that milestone among Siberian irises, White Swirl, but also to the devoted irisarian, Fred Cassebeer, who developed it.

¹ Rhodes, C. E., A string of pearls. *Bull. American Iris Society*, No. 232:34-36, 1979.

² With regard to its great value as a parent it must be noted that it is successful only as a pod parent as its pollen is ineffective.

American Iris Society Conventions

1988	Oklahoma City, OK	May 3-7
1989	Memphis, TN	April 29-May 3
1990	Omaha, NE	May 20-24
1991	Washington, DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994	Portland, OR	
1995	Pennsylvania	

New Regional Vice Presidents



Joe Christopher
Region 7



Rusty Ostheimer
Region 10

Six new RVPs will begin their terms this year after having been approved by the AIS Board of Directors in Memphis last November.

Region 7—Joseph L. Christopher

Joseph L. Christopher is a native of Nashville, and he was educated in the public school system there.

Joe had been “working on the railroad” until 1982 when he retired as an engineer with forty-one and a half years of service.

It was Joe’s very good fortune that Martha Pulley entered into his close circle of friends. They were married in 1943; they have one son and three granddaughters.

Although they have grown irises for three decades, it was their move to Murfreesboro in 1968 that evolved into an intense love affair with irises and The American Iris Society. The Christophers joined AIS in 1972, and the two have always worked as an inseperable team. Both Joe and Martha have held numerous offices and show committee chairmanships in their local AIS affiliate, Mid State Iris Association. Joe has served as treasurer and Assistant RVP of Region 7.

Joe has served as an accredited judge of The American Iris Society since 1979. That same year the beautifully manicured Christopher garden was an official tour garden of the Huntsville, Alabama, AIS Convention.

The shortest conversation with Joe and Martha soon turns to the subject of irises. They are exceptionally dedicated irisarians, but more importantly, they are very special people.

Phil Williams

Region 10—Russella (Rusty) Ostheimer

Rusty was born in Wilmington, Delaware, but moved to Houma, Louisiana at the age of four when her father's work as a research engineer for the USDA took the family there. She has made her home there since and is the mother of four girls—Natalie, Roberta, Laura, and Mary. Her husband, Ed Ostheimer, Jr., is the current president of the Society for Louisiana Irises. She teaches art and computer science/literacy at St. Matthew's Episcopal School.

Childhood memories of vast fields of native irises in bloom sparked an interest in Louisiana irises, but it was meeting Charles Arny, Jr. while she was in school at the University of Southwestern Louisiana that led to the discovery of the variety of flowers available in Louisiana irises. The few plants purchased at that time grew and bloomed in spite of lack of care due to the birth of her first child. From that time on her love affair with irises and the people involved began. Rusty joined the Society for Louisiana Irises and the American Iris Society, and she served in the capacity of president, board member, and show chairman for the Louisiana Society. She became an AIS judge, and she paints the awards for the Iris Society of Louisiana.

After acquiring some land with the Atchafalaya Swamp at the back door in 1983, an iris garden and nursery were established, and a log home is being built there. The garden is composed dominantly of Louisiana irises, including the older historic cultivars, but the planting is expanding to include Siberians, spurias, and Japanese irises.

Rusty's goal is to increase interest not only in Louisiana irises in Region 10, but also to increase interest in other adaptable irises. Another goal is a more numerous and active membership in a region where an important group of irises grows natively.

Region 13—Barbara Aitken

Born in Winnipeg, Canada, Barbara moved to the midwestern United States with husband Terry in the early 1960's. They eventually settled in Minneapolis (New Brighton), Minnesota, where they ordered their first irises from a Schreiner's catalogue and became peripherally involved in Region 8 activities.

Barbara's real interest in irises began after the couple moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1974, and Terry's general landscaping hobby evolved into a specialized activity with irises as the pivotal subject. "Iris people are simply great people to be with."

When Terry was suddenly thrust into the Regional RVP position in the early

1980's, the workload was shared by both Barbara and Terry. The rapid accumulation of appreciation for varied regional activities, the business aspects of regional activities and national AIS interaction soon made veterans of the pair.

In the past ten years, a rapidly expanding iris mail order business has taxed available time so that a division of labor has placed Terry in the hybridizer's role, with Barbara assuming the role of manager for the business. In addition, Barbara is a Real Estate Broker for a major real estate company based in Portland.

Barbara also serves as show judge and garden judge and travels extensively to gardens of local, regional, and national interest. Barbara and Terry have two adult sons living in the Seattle area.

Region 15—Ralph Strane

Ralph Strane was born in Kentucky and raised in Elmhurst, Illinois, but is a converted Californian since 1947. He received a B.A. from Pepperdine College and a Master's Degree from the University of Oregon. He earned his college money as a "singer-actor" in the original Broadway productions of "Kismet" and "Damn Yankees" and at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

Ralph retired after serving as Full Professor and Dean of Creative Arts at Chaffey College, Alta Loma, California, for twenty-five years. He lives with his wife of 36 years, Maxine, in a historical home in Rancho Cucamonga where they raised a family of five children. Ralph has all sorts of growing things in their yard—fruit trees, roses, pheasants, doves, fancy chickens, and many irises. Retirement has meant more activity than ever. He is director of Fine Arts for the Los Angeles County Fair, Commissioner for the San Bernardino County Museum, does original arts works for four different design companies besides doing much public speaking all over the West. Ralph is an AIS judge and has served as president of the Inland Iris Society.

Region 16—John McMillen

The new RVP of Region 16 resides on a farm just outside of Norwich, Ontario, Canada, 150 miles east of Detroit.

John McMillen is married with two sons, Jim, 17 and Dan, 14. John, a former dairy farmer and his wife Gloria operate McMillen's Iris Garden with the help of their sons.

The garden has over one thousand varieties consisting of MDBs, SDBs, IBs, MTBs, TBs, Siberians, spurias, Japanese, and a few water-loving species for the Japanese garden. More than a hundred daylilies also grow on the ten acre corner of their 140 acre farm. The garden is landscaped with a large number of trees and shrubs which were planted to attract birds, to provide wind protection, and to trap the snow for winter protection.

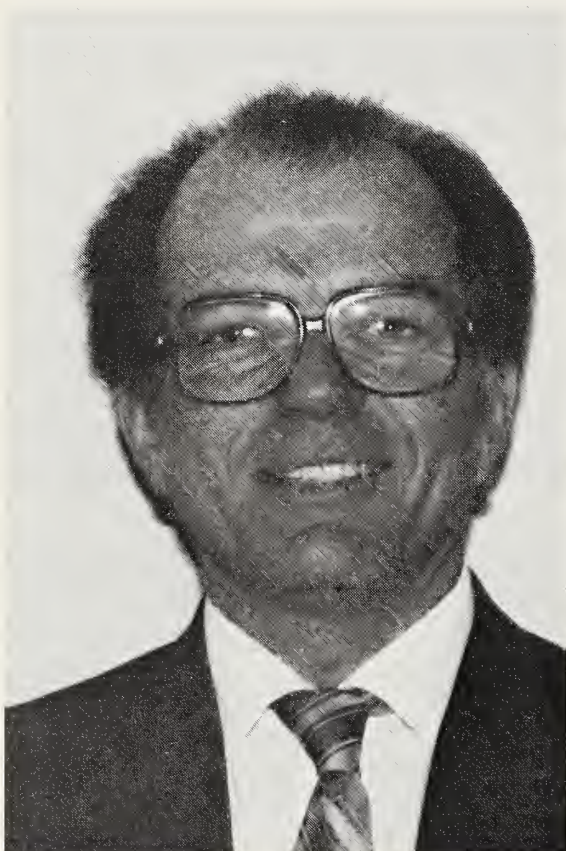
John and Gloria are both AIS judges. John is a lifetime member and president of the Canadian Iris Society. He is an associate director of Woodstock Horticultural Society and a member of the Ontario Landscape Trades Association. John is a school bus driver who enjoys photography and playing slow pitch ball.



Barbara Aitken
Region 13



Ralph Strane
Region 15



John McMillen
Region 16



Sarah Scruggs
Region 24

Region 24—Sarah Scruggs

The new RVP for Region 24 is Sarah Scruggs of Guntersville, Alabama. She has been growing irises and has been a member of AIS for 37 years. She has served the Marshall Iris Society as president for twelve years and as secretary for six years. She has been secretary for Region 24 for fifteen years and judges' training chairperson for three years.

Sarah attended the University of Alabama and has her BS and MA degrees with a triple major of English, social sciences, and business education. While in college, she was on the yearbook staff and a member of drama productions.

She now teaches history and English at Douglas High School. She also teaches at night at the Snead State Junior College. She is teaching cake decorating this quarter, but has been teaching accounting, shorthand, and typing in the adult education program. She also finds time to bake anniversary, birthday, and wedding cakes for the public.

Sarah belongs to several civic and professional organizations. She is now president of Beta Kappa Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. She was runner-up for BPW's Woman of the Year for two years. She has served her church in several offices and was a counselor for the Alabama GA camp in the summers.

ADDITIONAL GUEST IRISES FOR MEMPHIS

The members of the Memphis Area Iris Society wish to thank the hybridizers who guested irises for the 1989 AIS National Convention in Memphis, TN. Approximately 850 cultivars and seedlings were received.

There are still spaces in several convention gardens for bearded irises. Please send 1986 or newer varieties or seedlings and no more than 6 total rhizomes of each cultivar or seedling. Two rhizomes of each cultivar/seedling will be planted at each garden location. No duplication of what was received last year will be accepted! These bearded iris rhizomes will be accepted between July 1st and August 15th only.

Please refer to page 55 of the April, 1987 *Bulletin* for labeling information and maximum numbers of guests that will be accepted.

Marilyn Powell, Guest Iris Chairman
4818 Normandy Lane
Memphis, TN 38117
Phone (901) 761-3803

Prairie in Bloom—1990

Guest Iris Request

Region 21 and its affiliate societies of the A.I.S. will host the National Convention in 1990. The Convention headquarters will be in Omaha.

A master planting, which will include one plant of each cultivar that is guested, will be in the extensive Boys Town gardens. Ten other gardens will be on tour with sufficient difference in bloom season so that there are expectations that SDBs and IBs will still be in bloom for viewing at Convention time.

We are inviting hybridizers to send their irises to be planted in our tour gardens. Every effort will be made to grow them well and, God willing, they will look their very best at Convention time.

Please observe the following rules.

- 1) You may send up to four rhizomes of each cultivar.
- 2) Please send no more than 10 different cultivars that are unregistered, unnamed seedlings.
- 3) All official guest Irises must be shipped to the Guest Iris Chairman—
Allan Ensminger
RFD 3
Lincoln, NE 68505
(402) 467-2082
- 4) The following information should be clearly marked on or attached to each plant:
 - A) Hybridizer's name and address
 - B) Name of cultivar, or seedling number
 - C) Type of Iris (TB, BB, IB, SDB, SB, etc.)
 - D) If cultivar has or will be introduced as a remontant, also identify with REM
 - E) Height, color, and bloom season (ie. E, M, L)
 - F) Year of introduction
 - G) Please include a *Master Packing List*
- 5) Guest Irises will be accepted if received between July 2, 1988, and August 31, 1988. It is suggested that freshly dug plants be shipped by UPS on Mondays so they may be received by Friday and be replanted in tour gardens over the weekend.
- 6) If numbered seedlings are registered prior to Convention time, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman before Nov. 1, 1989.
- 7) A receipt will be sent to all contributors of Guest Irises listing the gardens in which they are planted. Contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of their plants in the spring of 1990. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.
- 8) The Convention Committee and owners of tour gardens will follow the statement of Code of Ethics as printed in the A.I.S. Convention Handbook.

9) The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only cultivars received through the Guest iris Chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.

Californicae irises will not winter over in the 1990 tour area. Miniature Dwarfs, Louisianas, and Japanese irises are discouraged unless the hydridizer has reason to believe that they will bloom much closer to the Tall Bearded season than is typical for these classes in our area. Attempts will be made to provide conditions so that Spurias and Siberians will be blooming at Convention time. Seasons in this area are usually much more spaced out than they are in southern states and on the West Coast.

Allan Ensminger,
Guest Iris Chairman



AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual	\$ 9.50	Sustaining	\$20.00
Triennial	23.75	Research	47.50
Family	11.50	Life	190.00
Family Triennial	28.50	Family Life	237.50
Youth Member, with others of family as members	2.00		
Youth Members, with no others of family as members	3.25		

SECTION MEMBERSHIP RATES	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Irises	2.50	6.50	3.00	7.50
Spuria Iris Society	3.00	7.00	3.50	8.00
Society for Japanese Irises	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00
Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group of North America	3.50	9.00	4.50	10.50
Louisiana Iris Society of America	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00

Membership in AIS sections is open to all AIS members. Payment may be made directly to the Section, or may be made payable to the American Iris Society and sent to AIS Membership Secretary, Carol Ramsey, 6518 Beachy Ave., Wichita, KS 67206

Announcing The Louisiana Iris Book

Those people growing or researching Louisiana irises have known for years that there was no one comprehensive reference about them available. There are hundreds of articles written about them over the past 50 years, but most are in newsletters and bulletins received only by members of certain iris societies. For this reason, the Society for Louisiana Irises started working in 1983 to produce a book devoted exclusively to the Louisiana iris species and their hybrids. This book is finally a reality and should be available by May, 1988.

The Louisiana Iris is a hard cover book with about 240 pages, of which 37 are in color with about 95 colored illustrations. There are also line drawings and black and white photographs and a beautiful colored dust jacket. The planning and supervision of publishing were done by the co-editors, Marie Caillet of Texas and Joseph K. Mertzweiller of Louisiana. Marie Caillet, a charter member of the Society for Louisiana Irises, is currently Editor of their quarterly Newsletter and was awarded the AIS Distinguished Service Medal in 1983. Joseph Mertzweiller developed the first Louisiana iris tetraploids and was awarded the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in 1984. Art work and photographs were supervised by Richard Goula, an organizer and the first President of the Louisiana Iris Society of America. There are 20 authors and about 15 iris society members who have contributed in some way to getting the book ready to publish. It is a crowning achievement for so small a group of iris enthusiasts to write, produce and finance such a book. With Louisiana irises becoming one of the fastest growing and most popular beardless irises, this book should meet the need for information from a qualified group of iris growers.

The book contains historical material on the species that make up the Louisiana iris group; the efforts of early collectors and promoters to get recognition for this native American wild flower; detailed information on propagation and hybridizing; diseases and pests and what to do about them. There is cultural information from Louisiana iris growers throughout the United States and from Australia, Japan, and East Germany. Among the authors are Mary Dunn and Richard Sloan of California, Melody Wilhoit of Illinois, Henry Rowlan of Arkansas, Barbara Nelson and Charles Arny of Louisiana and Robert Bledsoe of South Dakota. There is a chapter on judging the Louisianas and on their use in landscaping and flower arranging. The appendix contains a glossary, reference list, index and a complete account of the development of tetraploids by the colchicine method.

Members of the American Iris Society are being offered the book at a pre-publication discount of one third off the retail price, provided it is ordered before *May 15, 1988*. See the ad in this Bulletin issue giving the pre-publication price and the name and address of the publisher. You may order as many copies as you wish at this price, but only up to May 15, 1988.

What's Happening to Louisiana Irises

Marie Caillet

Louisiana irises have been around since long before this country was settled, yet we tend to think of them as the new irises of this century! In certain ways this is true. They were pretty well ignored and left to grow and hybridize on their own for hundreds of years—just waiting to be discovered. It was not until this century that a few botanists and iris growers called attention to them. It was the middle of the century before collectors and growers began to promote and sell them. And it is only in the last 20 or 25 years that they have begun to come into their own.

Advances in the hybridizing of Louisiana irises have been great during these late years, but fortunately for hybridizers the ultimate goals have not been reached. There are still many directions in which to work and many goals left for hybridizers to achieve. For this reason it is not unusual to find a tall bearded hybridizer moving into the Louisiana field. Not only are there improvements and changes to be made, but the lack of such stiff competition is encouraging. There are similar odds for receiving awards, which tempts the young hybridizers.

The direction that Louisiana hybridizing has taken tends to follow the developments of other types of irises, especially so bearded irises. The main difference in development is the time span, for work with the Louisiana irises started many years behind that of the bearded irises. If you are familiar with the very old bearded irises, you know that there were no clear yellows, no pinks, no ruffled edges, only a few buds to a stalk, poor substance, etc. The list is a long one, but we know that almost any goal has been reached eventually with bearded and thus may not be impossible with the Louisianas.

As with most hybridizing goals, they are developed usually by starting where someone else left off. Few growers start over with the species. Early Louisiana iris hybridizers have left a wealth of material from which to work. The 'bigger and better' trend during the mid-century gave six and seven inch flowers, like DENEK, and wide, overlapping flower parts like those of QUEEN O'QUEENS. DIXIE DEB and G. W. HOLLEYMAN formed a base for clear yellow. CHARLIE'S MICHELE had just enough ruffling to entice the hybridizers to try for more. Years of work by Joseph K. Mertzweiller led to the first tetraploids and a chance find by Marvin Granger on a collecting trip started the hybridizing for semi-doubles and cartwheels. So what are the trends or directions being taken by hybridizers today to improve or change the Louisiana irises?

COLOR. Theoretically, all colors are possible when you begin with red, yellow, blue and white in the species that make up the Louisiana group. In practice, however, some colors have been slow to evolve. With the proximity of some species to each other, nature had crossed some to form the secondary colors

of purple, red-purple and red-orange and multiple variations within those colors. It has taken the hybridizers to perfect and intensify these colors and to get the beautiful tints and darker shades. But the hunt still goes on for a redder red than ANN CHOWNING, a bluer blue than LA PEROUSE, the elusive pink that doesn't look lavender and the orange and apricot colors found in other iris groups. I don't know why anyone wants a black flower, but some hybridizers are working for one darker than BLACK WIDOW. Some are also working toward a green flower, since they have a start with the green throat and style arms found on many whites.

OTHER COLOR BREAKS. Collected species are generally selfs or with only a slight variation in degree of color in the standards and falls, thus the bitone, and later, the bicolor became goals to achieve. Contrasts like those of amoenas, variegatas and plicatas in bearded irises are still not a reality. The close ones like EASTER TIDE, COLORIFIC and ALMERIA give hope for better ones to come. A banding or halo has begun to show up for a possible break toward plicatas. CHARLIE'S GINNY has a yellow edging on the falls, and a Mertzweiller seedling from Charles Fritchie and Marvin Granger show wide bandings for a definite color break. Granger's KAY NELSON, a 1988 introduction, has a light edging to emphasize the ruffled lavender falls. I think we'll see more of this each year.



A Mertzweiller seedling with a halo on all flower parts.



MAY ROY (Granger '69) Rose pink with green style arms.

UNUSUAL MARKINGS. A distinctive feature of beardless irises is the signal patch or blaze on the falls. Variations in their size, shape and color in the Louisianas are endless, with something new coming out each year. The first DeBaillon Award winner, BAYOU SUNSET, has a very distinctive blaze and the collected LOCKETT'S LUCK was the first to have a dark outline around the signal. Newer introductions like BAYOU SHADOW have this dark outline and Henry Rowlan's FLAME ON has the large and contrasting blaze. It is not unusual now to find markings on the falls and standards. Richard Morgan's PARADE MUSIC has a large yellow signal on the falls and a narrow line signal on the standards. Almost identical signals on both standards and falls are a characteristic of the cartwheels, like Granger's DELTA STAR and ROSE CART-WHEEL. Such markings on a flat flower give a striking star-like effect.

CONTRASTING STYLE ARMS. The open form or flat and flaring standards of Louisiana irises allow the style arms to take on more importance than they do in bearded irises. The color contrast of white styles on a blue flower like MAC'S BLUE HEAVEN is most impressive. Also striking are the light yellow styles on the velvety purple DELTA PRINCE. Green styles add distinction to several whites and yellows. An even newer trend is the contrast of color of the style crests to the style arms. Many of these style crests are now ruffled or fluted to make for more interest in the center of the flower.

FLOWER FORM. Flower form, like color, was the basis for most of the early goals in hybridizing. The variety of form within the species led to infinite variety of form in the hybrids, but form has been taken in several new directions. There is no standard form, and should never be, for this is part of the charm of Louisianas, but there has been a trend toward wide, overlapping flower parts edged with ruffles. Hybridizers are hard at work to get a seedling more ruffled than CLARA GOULA or with lacier edges than LAVENDER RUFFLES! They are both beautiful, but should not be considered the ultimate in form. Smooth, tailored flowers are equally nice. An example is the tetraploid, PROFESSOR PAUL. Early hybridizers worked to eliminate the drooping falls of *I. fulva*, but this pendant form is effective in PRESIDENT HEDLEY and greatly admired in Richard Sloan's RUTH SLOAN and AMBER RIVER.

Except for the work of Marvin Granger, little has been done with the semi-doubles. Their extra petals and petaloids give an entirely different form to the flowers. Some object to this variation from the typical iris with three distinct falls and three distinct standards. Doubles are acceptable in Japanese irises, so why not in Louisianas? We may see some interesting developments from this strain of Louisiana iris hybridizing, for there are some hybridizers beginning to work with the present doubles and cartwheels available.

TETRAPLOIDS. The first tetraploid Louisianas went on the market fifteen years ago, yet they have had little impact on most hybridizing. This will change as certain varieties prove to be more fertile and as there are more colors and variations with which to work. Already, several hybridizers are

concentrating on tetraploids and more new ones are introduced each year. Whether or not they replace the diploids, as happened to the tall bearded irises, is hard to predict. In the future, however, expect to see more tetraploids on the market in many more interesting colors and forms.

There are improvements and directions that do not pertain to just the flowers. These directions are important and should not be overlooked by the hybridizer nor by judges evaluating new irises. They may make the difference in how many new people are recruited to grow Louisianas.

STALKS and BUDS. Few gardens can handle 5 and 6 foot stalks, so it has become important to get some stalk heights down to 3 feet and under. There is even a trend toward development of a group of medians and even semi-dwarfs. Frank Chowning had begun this work and Richard Morgan and Henry Rowlan are continuing where he left off. But the stalks must still get up and out of the foliage, which has been the fault of some varieties. Flowers must also bloom where they can be seen and with enough buds to open over a reasonable period. Species and old cultivars often had only 2 and 3 bud positions, whereas many new ones may have 5 to 8 bud positions and as many as 12 buds. High bud count is a potential for certain varieties, but still dependent on culture.

COMPACT CLUMPS. When we brag about growing 12 inch long rhizomes, we may be discouraging a new grower! Who has room in a city garden for an iris to spread in all directions and into its neighbors? A much needed improvement is for shorter rhizomes, increased plant growth, and compact clumps. The so-called instant clump makes the best effect in a garden planting. Some Louisianas are notorious for 'traveling' and some for producing only a minimum of increases each year. This is certainly an area that needs improvement and some hybridizers are getting results. We don't expect all Louisianas to increase like BLACK GAMECOCK, but it is nice to have a year old plant form an instant clump with many bloom stalks!

HARDINESS. Perhaps the most important trend since Louisiana irises started spreading across the United States and into foreign countries is that of working for hardiness to all climates. As it turns out, most are hardy if certain precautions are taken. It was once thought they wouldn't grow in cold climates, but we even have commercial dealers as far north as Minnesota. Those who attended the Phoenix Convention saw how well they can be grown in that hot, dry climate. Hardiness has always been as much an educational as a scientific problem, so it is up to growers to promote them in other areas, as well as for hybridizers to develop varieties that can take the extremes. A 1988 catalog from Eberhard Schuster of far north East Germany lists a number of Louisiana irises for sale. Growing them, and now promoting them commercially, has been his goal for a number of years.

It discourages a gardener to order rhizomes from the mild climates of Louisiana and California and then have them struggle to survive in the cold north or the dry, hot midwest. There is still room for improvement in hardiness, and this certainly should not be overlooked as a future goal.



Ashley Michelle (Mertzweiller '87) has compact form. Below top is Bob Raabe's Uralba Gold which shows ruffled form. At bottom is Professor Sigmund (Mertzweiller) which is a large red tetraploid.



ACCEPTANCE. I'm old enough to remember when the first Louisiana irises were being traded around in iris circles in the 1930's. My mother grew a small *I. fulva* in Dallas, where garden visitors compared it unfavorably with the top bearded irises like INDIAN CHIEF and ALTA CALIFORNIA! I was also part of the group in Louisiana in the early 1940's who worked so hard to get Louisianas accepted by the die-hards. It is gratifying to see a whole table of Louisiana iris entries in current shows and to see the increasing number selected as Queen of Show.

What's happening to Louisiana irises? They are getting more beautiful each year, they are being grown everywhere, and they are finally coming into their own as a garden iris. They are no longer thought of as just a novelty, but as a valuable addition to the "World of Irises."

Photo at right shows Rokki, a white double by Marvin Granger.

Photo below is *I. giganteaerulea* growing in the swamps of South Louisiana.



Role of the Abbeville Irises (*I. Nelsonii*) in Development of the Louisianas

Joseph K. Mertzweiler

Louisiana irises are a group of native species and natural hybrids, the development of which is a fascinating and interesting story in American horticulture. These are beardless irises found predominantly, although not exclusively, in Louisiana. Prior to 1925 very few people knew about these irises, but they had grown and multiplied in the swamps and bogs for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. Although there are some early botanical references and naming of species, it was Dr. John K. Small, Curator of the New York Botanical Gardens, who provided the impetus and publicity to start things moving. Small's work inspired activities by scores of amateur plant enthusiasts, collectors, growers and hybridizers. In a few decades Louisianas made the transition from obscure swamp dwellers to the most popular of the beardless types. This is a long story, and only a small part can be told here. Discovery and contributions of the "Abbeville irises", later to be given the species name *I. nelsonii*, constitute a main theme in this development.

Natural forces played a big role in the unfolding of the Louisiana story. Activities of the bumblebee and distribution of the seeds by water resulted in such extensive natural hybridization that Small referred to the area as "the iris center of the universe". Both species and natural hybrids are found in the same geographic locations, from roughly the Mississippi River delta westward to near the Texas-Louisiana line and up to almost 100 miles inland. This area comprises approximately 15,000 square miles and has been referred to as the "golden rectangle" of Louisiana irises. Small's activities and explorations covered only about the eastern third of this area but resulted in his naming the species *I. giganteaerulea*, (1929), the giant blues of the Gulf Coast, and one of the most spectacular of all iris species. *I. giganteaerulea* which grow six feet tall in the natural habitat.

Most of the activities in the 1930's involved collecting in the wild and growing the collected irises in gardens. Hybridizing was very limited. The extremely broad range of colors and forms was particularly attractive to collectors and growers. Mary Swords DeBaillon was one of the early collectors influenced by Small's work, and over the years she amassed one of the largest and most complete collections in terms of colors, forms, and sizes. About 1938 Mr. W. B. MacMillan of Abbeville, Louisiana, another ardent collector, made a remarkable discovery. In a relatively small area, not far from Abbeville, he found Louisiana irises which were remarkably colorful and variable in form, and generally "different" from most other irises collected in the area. Nothing was known about these irises, but MacMillan and other collectors realized the significance of the discovery and named these larger and more vigorous growers "Abbeville irises" (also "Abbeville reds" and

“Abbeville yellows” because these were the colors frequently found).

Shortly after MacMillan's discovery, another contribution by a professional in horticulture was to influence these matters. By 1941 Ira S. Nelson became established as professor of horticulture at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now University of Southwest Louisiana) in Lafayette, Louisiana. “Ike” was very interested in development of Louisiana horticulture and, with MacMillan, organized the Mary Swords DeBaillon Iris Society (now The Society for Louisiana Irises). This provided for organization and dissemination of information and marked the beginning of things to come.

For a few years the enthusiasts were content to grow the Abbeville irises and other collected varieties in their gardens. Beginning in 1942, Ike Nelson was instrumental in staging many spectacular iris shows for the Society for Louisiana Irises. These shows were very popular and continue today. More and more people got to see the irises. The concept of improving the irises took hold and hybridizing was underway, slowly at first, then at an ever increasing pace. Abbeville irises were among the most spectacular and were highly sought as parents. It was soon apparent that the bumblebees had contributed many generations “head start” to hybridizing efforts.

Foremost among the early hybridizers was Caroline Dormon of Saline, Louisiana, who worked with many Abbeville types from Mary DeBaillon, MacMillan, and her own collecting. In the late 1940's and early 1950's Caroline Dormon produced two outstanding hybrids, mostly of Abbeville background. These irises, named VIOLET RAY and WHEELHORSE, remain popular to this day. VIOLET RAY is a large pansy purple with light yellow signal markings on a large cream-rayed background. WHEELHORSE is a rose-pink bitone, standards rose-pink and falls brilliant amaranth rose. Equally important are the Abbeville parents, OLD CORAL (coral pink, collected by Caroline Dormon) and PEGGY MAC (magenta rose) collected by MacMillan. These four irises occur very frequently in old check lists and are among the most important parents.

Similar lines of breeding, involving mostly the same parents, produced W. B. MACMILLAN for Sidney Conger. This red bitone with a chrome-yellow signal has a very distinct form, almost perfectly flat, overlapping and rounded. This form is probably most popular among today's hybrids. Development of this form is directly attributable to the Abbeville irises and the variety PEGGY MAC.

In the 1960'S Mr. C. W. Arny, Jr. Produced CHARLIE'S MICHELE, an amaranth-rose self with a large yellow signal from the parentage WHEELHORSE X W. B. MACMILLAN. This provided another breakthrough in form. CHARLIE'S MICHELE was the first Louisiana to show extensive ruffling; it has since been shown that the ruffling feature is fairly dominant and frequently transmitted to progeny. Source of the ruffling is speculated to come from the pollen parent, W. B. MACMILLAN, which shows slight ruffling. Two collected irises (CONTRAST and CAROLINE DORMON), unlikely to be Abbeville types, are in the more distant background of W. B. MACMILLAN.

By the late 1960's most growers and hybridizers considered VIOLET RAY, WHEELHORSE, W. B. MACMILLAN and CHARLIE'S MICHELE among the best Louisianas available. All had won or would win the DeBaillon Award, the highest AIS award for Louisianas at that time. Although other outstanding hybrids were being developed, this group was noted for the most distinctive new forms, particularly the flat, full and overlapping form and the ruffled form. Color, however, was not as variable as might have been desired. All are fairly dark colors, deep rose, rose red and purple; all represent probably 60% or greater Abbeville lineage. Furthermore, considerable line breeding is apparent since only a half dozen or so collected irises constitute the original breeding stock. The more dominant darker colors are characteristic of line breeding.

By 1970 lighter colored hybrids had been developed from VIOLET RAY and WHEELHORSE by Sam Redburn, Marvin Granger, and G. W. Holleyman. This involved bringing out a recessive gene for yellow which is known to be present in WHEELHORSE. The most significant new cultivars were LADY FLORENCE, a rich butter yellow, and QUEEN O' QUEENS, a creamy white with the rounded, overlapping form and with slight ruffling. Arny obtained another cream white, CHARLIE'S ANGEL, from QUEEN O' QUEENS with an unknown seedling. Although the Abbeville content of these hybrids may be decreasing, they are still predominantly Abbeville descendants.

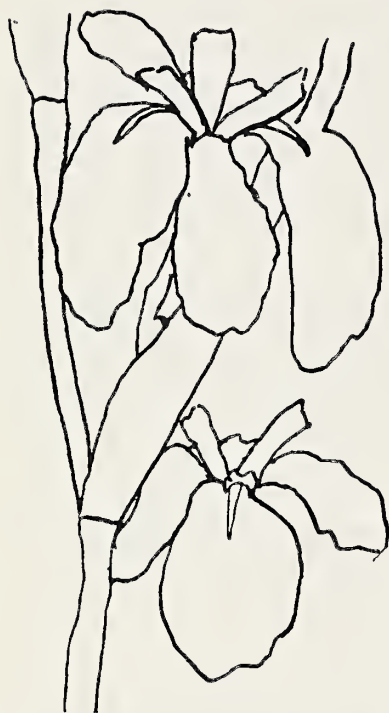
Arny then produced CLARA GOULA, (CHARLIE'S MICHELE X CHARLIE'S ANGEL) the most ruffled and one of the most beautiful Louisiana hybrids to date. CLARA GOULA is really a new form since it combines the best of the rounded, overlapping form with the best in ruffling. The ruffling is much finer and more pronounced than in the pod parent and approaches the "laciness" common in bearded irises. CLARA GOULA won the newly instituted DeBaillon Medal in 1987, the top AIS award for Louisianas.

Although the genetic background of CLARA GOULA is about 50% Abbeville type, the creamy white color is a significant departure. Garden performance in various parts of the country indicates it may be limited in growth vigor and may not produce a spectacular garden effect. This could be a further effect of line breeding. More recently Arny produced another white cultivar, ACADIAN MISS, having the parentage CLYDE REMOND X CLARA GOULA. The pod parent is an intense blue, a vigorous and persistent garden iris with little or no Abbeville background. ACADIAN MISS is very similar to CLARA GOULA and an appreciably better garden performer.

The technical background for the Abbeville irises, particularly how they developed in nature, remained clouded in mystery until 1966. In that year Dr. L. F. Randolph published his research on this subject (Baileya, Vol. 14, pg. 162, 1966). He showed this to be one of the best established cases in which a new species evolved from natural hybrids over a period of time. Extensive populations of *I. fulva*, *I. giganticaerulea* and *I. brevicaulis* grew in close proximity in this habitat. Resulting natural hybrids became stabilized and developed true breeding and other species characteristics over a long but

FIGURE 1

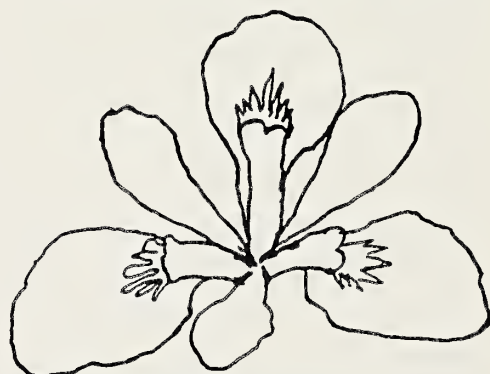
FORMS OF SOME *HEXAGONAE* SPECIES



I. fulva (Ker-Gawler, 1812)



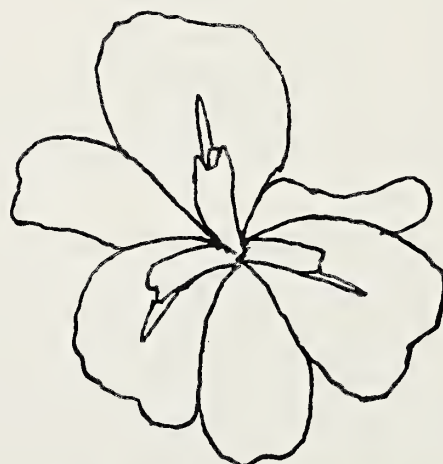
I. giganteaerulea (Small, 1929)



I. brevicaulis (Rafinesque, 1817)



I. nelsonii (Randolph, 1966)



Collected *I. nelsonii*, Var. PEGGY MAC
(MacMillan, 1943)

FIGURE 2
LATER HYBRIDS IN THE *HEXAGONAE*



VIOLET RAY (C. Dormon, 1949)



WHEELHORSE (C. Dormon, 1952)



CHARLIE'S MICHELE (Arny, 1969)



CLARA GOULA (Arny, 1975)

undetermined period. Randolph gives morphological and cytological evidence for this and named the new species *I. nelsonii* in honor of Ira Nelson who had collaborated in this work.

Among the Louisiana hybrids, form and color are considered the most important features of variability. *I. nelsonii* contributed to both features, but probably contributed most to form. In *I. nelsonii* are genetic blends of the forms of the three species from which it is derived, and this is responsible for great enhancement in the rate of development.

Development of the various forms, starting with the species and progressing to the latest hybrids, is illustrated by the line drawings in Figures 1 and 2. The upper drawings in Figure 1 show typical forms of the species *I. fulva*, *I. giganteaerulea* and *I. brevicaulis*, while the lower drawings show a typical form of *I. nelsonii* and the *I. nelsonii* variety PEGGY MAC; *I. fulva* always shows semi-pendant to fully pendant form; *I. giganteaerulea* is noted for the flaring form, often with near upright standards; *I. brevicaulis*, the dwarf species is somewhat similar to *I. giganteaerulea*, although a much smaller flower and scape. The form of *I. nelsonii* varies between that of *I. fulva* and *I. giganteaerulea*. The form of PEGGY MAC is one extreme of *I. nelsonii*; the other extreme (not shown) is the "spidery" form.

None of the species forms show any indications of ruffling. The earlier hybrids VIOLET RAY and WHEELHORSE shown in Figure 2 have no appreciable ruffling; the cultivar CHARLIE'S MICHELE was the first to show appreciable ruffling, while CLARA GOULA is the most ruffled Louisiana hybrid to date. The development of ruffling is considered primarily a result of hybridization.

This article is a condensation of parts of the book, *THE LOUISIANA IRIS*, published by the Society for Louisiana Irises in May, 1988.



I. hexagona

Growing Louisianas in Arizona

Dorald (Don) Shepard

Louisianas are easy to grow in Arizona, but every year we learn something new about their culture.

Here, the most important aspect of growing any iris is getting the soil worked properly. For Louisianas, we work the soil well by adding mulch to make it as loose as possible. We must add phosphate, mulch, soil sulphur, and nitrogen to BALANCE THE SOIL. We mix all the ingredients well with the soil, preferably with the rototiller. After all the mixing, the soil should be leveled with a rake and watered to settle before any planting is done.

Location of beds is very critical to proper growing conditions. The proper mixture of sun and shade must be right for good production. In Arizona, we have found that the more sun you give them, the more they will produce better plants and increase. Full sun should be interrupted by periods of shade at certain times of the day; morning time is fine for giving them full sun. We did plant some left-over Louisianas in full sun with no interruption. They get full sun all day throughout the year. This bed gets flooded twice weekly. We feel the water is what makes the difference since the Louisianas are doing fine despite the sun's heat.

For home gardens you could place beds in full sun. When it gets too hot, place shade cloth over them during the hottest part of the summer. More important is keeping the bed wet all the time, but not to the extent that the soil turns green. We water twice a week here. All of our plants in Arizona have nice sturdy foliage and good strong bloom stalks. During the growing months, even in the winter, we side dress with an all-purpose fertilizer to give good strong roots. This helps to start the increase early. During the summer we side dress three times to get fast growth and healthy plants. Louisianas in Arizona need iron to keep good color in the foliage.

For Arizona and for our commercial garden, we have found watering with drip irrigation makes for better growth, less rot and better usage of the water because of less evaporation. The water is soaked into the ground where it belongs. When flood irrigating in rows, water does not reach the end of the row or it breaks through where it doesn't belong. We feel the drip irrigation can control your water consumption better. It is really luxurious to set the timer and have the beds watered automatically. It used to take us ten days to drag hoses and flood irrigate. Now, it takes about twelve hours during the night. If we want to change the water cycle, we simply reset the timer system.

Our irrigation hoses are placed in the beds about 18 to 20 inches apart. We have one gallon emitters placed twelve inches on center. This means they drip one gallon of water per hour. All of our beds are on flat ground, but whether they go up hill or down, the entire bed gets watered properly. A 2500 square foot bed can be watered in about thirty to forty-five minutes when the ground is dry. Fertilizer can be run through the drip irrigation system. This same water system is used on all the bearded irises in our garden.

Drip hose like we use can be rolled up or pulled back in the summer to allow the beds to be reworked. This hose is rated for use on top of the soil and guaranteed for five years, even in our heat.

This is not the only way to water or irrigate, but we find it saves us time, water, and money with better results in growth. Everyone is looking for better growth and fewer problems.

Implications for Louisiana Irises in Northern Florida

Betsy Smith

Nearly five years in the retail nursery trade has convinced me of the large local demand for irises. North Florida, as elsewhere in the country, is experiencing a renewed interest in perennials. And there is no substitute for the iris family's foliage and flower form and color range.

I have followed with interest the experiments of others with tall bearded varieties and concluded that generally the results here do not justify the effort and expense. However, my experience with Louisiana species and hybrid irises may suggest a solution, as they exceeded my own initial expectations. In fact, what began two years ago as a personal research project has become a passion of mine.

Having grown and evaluated over 20 varieties in my own plots, I am impressed by their remarkable adaptability. This should not be surprising since Tallahassee is perched at the bottom of the Southeastern Coastal Plain as is Southern Louisiana. The irises have been so agreeable, in fact, that I have been unable to draw any hard conclusions as to optimum conditions for culture. So far, they have flourished under varied fertilization regimes, temperature extremes, droughts and floods, in a raised bed, the swamp, and in pots. Plus the fact that I yank them up yearly to measure rhizome production.

Certainly, these virtues imply a niche for these irises in Northern Florida. In addition, the Louisianas stand to gain in popularity through two major trends in horticulture. One is an enthusiasm for water gardening; the other is an appreciation for native plant varieties.

So why is it, with their obvious merit and great potential demand, that these varieties are practically unheard of here? I can think of several reasons. Probably the greatest obstacle to local popularity is their confusion with *I. pseudacorus* by the nursery and landscape trade. That iris is a shy and unspectacular bloomer here and with foliage to six feet tall, it is an awkward flower garden subject.

Another problem common to the industry is coordination of supply with the demand for plants. As awareness of and demand for new irises is light, it is up to nurserymen to educate and stimulate public acceptance. This should not be difficult, as the Louisiana blooming season coincides with peak traffic

through the nurseries, and it is well known that the public will snap up most any flashy flower at this time. If it succeeds, they will return for more.

I think time will tell which varieties are best suited to pot culture and are thus most marketable for nurseries. Those with compact rhizome increases, such as BLACK GAMECOCK, are a good bet. Also impressive is a pale yellow *I. fulva* recommended for its delicate form, compactness and good foliage characteristics.

Form and longevity of foliage need to be studied to determine the varieties best suited to landscape designs. A good design, well executed, arouses a great deal of interest in and demand for featured plants. For me, the species *I. fulva* and *I. hexagona* and the cultivar BARBARA ELAINE TAYLOR have had the best looking and longest lasting foliage.

I am experimenting with *Lobelia syphilitica* as a companion for my irises. This moisture-loving and robust perennial sends up tall blue spires during the summer dormant season. Also, daylilies seem to glory in wetness, extend the bloom season and obscure declining foliage. Hopefully, these studies will result in more effective and wide-spread use of the Louisiana irises in Florida.

AWARD OF MERIT REVELATIONS

Ken and Agnes Waite

Have you been curious about the lack of 1987 Awards of Merit in the Tall Bearded iris class? Three letters of concern were received by the Awards Committee Chairman. This was the stimulus to do some research of the voting in the category. Unfortunately, only the last three years' ballots were available for study. The results came as no surprise, as the tallying committee has been conscious of subtle changes in voting habits of many qualified judges.

The following chart is data garnered from the investigation.

	1985	1986	1987
Ballots Returned	753	758	748
Number of Judges Voting AM Category	697	682	685
No Votes	46	65	50
Voided, Over Voted	10	11	10
Voided, Mail Delay*	0	0	3
Number of Varieties in Category	274	258	262
Total Votes For TB AMs	7,577	7,102	6,825
Judges Voting Max. Number Allowed	509	429	389
Late Ballots**	8	14	13

*Postmarked on time. Delivered too late for counting. Would not have affected outcome.

**Postmarked after July 10th, not credited or counted.

It seems apparent more and more judges are casting votes for the varieties of which they have a working knowledge. You will note by the chart that fewer judges are voting the maximum number of varieties. The more intensive Judges Training has aroused more concern for the responsibilities of judgeship.

The cost of new varieties is such that fewer judges can afford many of the newest introductions. When an iris is affordable to many judges and two or three years of growing for evaluation have passed, the variety is off the eligibility list. A few judges have stated the evaluation period should be at least five years to allow for hardiness tests in weather variations.

Weather conditions are another factor in the balloting. It has been noted throughout nine years on awards that adverse weather conditions will affect regional voting in a given year. One can almost pinpoint where abnormal conditions have influenced voting. Hybridizers are challenged to work toward more hardiness in the cultivars.

These conclusions are only those of the Awards Committee. The chart is for your perusal and personal judgment. Suggestions have been made that the awards structure be revised to allow for the maximum number of AMs to be given each year. The Awards Committee opines that a worthy variety should be able to amass the standard minimum of 65 votes. It must be pointed out that the deficiency in number of Tall Bearded AMs has occurred only this one year.

Growing Louisianas

Mary Dunn

Louisiana irises are good for landscaping or just to grow in clumps in the garden. A group of Louisianas planted around a pond can make a lovely garden area. The foliage is bright green almost the year around, and it is upright and makes a nice background for other plants as well. I think that Louisianas are the easiest of the beardless irises to grow. They can take sun or a half day of shade; in fact, the deeper colors are better if they are shaded in the afternoon.

Louisianas do not require a great deal of care, unless you grow them strictly for shows. This requires care to keep the snails and slugs away from the foliage and the bloom stalks. These pests will leave badly chewed marks which will detract from the perfection needed in shows. *Deadline* works well for me in controlling these pests.

I grow my Louisianas in very heavy garden soil of a clay type which I feel helps to keep the bloomstalks standing upright even when several blooms are open at once. This eliminates the need for staking except in some instances where a potential show entry is involved. A soil of a different type sometimes means that the rhizome is not well enough anchored to stand erect with several flowers open.

When we plant, we rototill *Care* and terraclor powder into the planting area.

We transplant soon after bloom season before the plants have begun to put out new roots and increases. By planting early, we have the advantage that when the plants do begin to put out these new roots and increases, they are already in their new location. This means they don't have to go through the root production process twice. We feel this gives them a head start for the next year's bloom. They must be kept damp when they are transplanted this early, especially through the summer, but we feel we get more bloom than if we transplant later in the year.

I grow my Louisianas at the edge of the lawn to take advantage of the extra water available when the lawn is watered. Louisianas do like to be kept moist, but they do not have to grow in a pond. They will do well growing in water, but few people have such an area in the garden. A spot in the garden that is too wet for other types of plants may be a good place in which to grow Louisianas.

Many different reasons exist for growing Louisiana irises of the different types, but I feel that every potential gardener should determine why he wants to grow them before actually obtaining the plants. Some are better for producing show entries than others; some are outstanding garden plants; while others tend to take too much space, grow too tall for a given area, or require staking; still other varieties can be used for both the show bench and that great garden plant you want in your garden. Some Louisianas are lovely as hedge type plantings and serve that purpose when the bloom season has ended.

The following are nice ones for color, but usually need to be staked in California gardens. They may also do well as show flowers. Among this group are Bayou Comus, a golden yellow blend; Easter Tide, a bicolor of yellow and lavender; F.A.C. McCulla, a great red color; La Perouse, a very blue self with no signal; and Uralba Gold, a gold with good growing and flowering habits.

The following varieties will excel in the garden and on most show benches if they are well groomed: Charlie's Michelle, a lovely rose color; Carmen, a lovely red with good habits; Ila Nunn, a nice creamy white that has super garden habits; Buxom, a nice grape lavender that is a unique color; Delta King, a red-brown that has the added advantage of being a compact grower; Helen Naish, a white; and Koorawatha, a yellow gold.



Buxom



Fantastic

The following are low-growing Louisianas which I call hedge types. They are about 24 to 30 inches tall here. This group includes Gulf Shores, a ruffled deep blue; Black Gamecock, a near black; Red Gamecock, a red; Hand-maiden, a lovely pink; Gold Reserve, a blended gold; Monument, a creamy white of fine quality; and Mississippi Gambler, a rusty brown washed gold.

I like the following varieties very much even though most have a fault of some kind. They are so beautiful that I just enjoy them and ignore the fault. Clara Goula, a very ruffled white; Crisp Lime, white with lime green style arms; Fantastic, ruffled straw yellow; Delta Dawn, a blend of sunrise colorings; Mary's Charlie, a bright fuchsia; New Offering, a violet self; Plantation Beau, a very wide milky violet; Professor Ike, a tetraploid with big, wide form and bright violet purple coloring; and Full Eclipse, a dark blackish violet. Three varieties mentioned earlier are also in this group: La Perouse, Helen Naish, and Koorawatha.

Any or all of the Louisianas would be wonderful additions to your beardless garden, and they are fun to grow. To me, they are just as beautiful as the tall bearded and other types and much more fun to grow since they require so little care compared to bearded irises.

Louisianas are heavy feeders and will perform wonderfully well with a generous feeding of chicken or steer manure after planting and just after bloom season.

I started hybridizing these beauties just because I started to really look at the flowers and the way they grew. I did not like the way the oldies crawled from the north side of the garden to the south side in one growing season, much like Bermuda grass. I wanted to work toward correcting that fault, so I picked the ones I liked and started. It was wonderful to discover that every cross had set a pod, and I was hooked and on my way. They do set seed very easily, so make very sure the crosses you made are marked, then discard the others. Maybe the bee is smarter than I am, but I don't want to wait two years to find out. I do not soak the seeds before planting, but I always plant here by September 15 since they seem to germinate better if planted by that date. I plant in a raised seed bed filled with redi-grow planting mix. Always keep the seed bed moist. I always plant the seedlings in September after their germination in April. When planted at this time, they will usually bloom the next year. If you plant the seeds directly into the ground, they will germinate better, and I feel they will bloom sooner. I lost a year by transplanting the seedlings because they can't recover fast enough to bloom the next spring. Not every seedling that blooms will be a keeper, but they surely will be fun to see as you wander through the planting two or three times a day during bloom time. Be sure to check their branching, substance, bud count, and sun fastness. Some look great early, but don't look so good by afternoon. Have fun, and enjoy the "beardless adventure."

Portions of this article are reprinted from the Region 14 Bulletin, Winter, 1987.

Growing Louisiana Irises in the Midwest

Melody Wilhoit

The Louisiana iris is the easiest beardless iris we grow on our mini-farm in east central Illinois. We have fewer losses of the Louisianas than any other irises we grow, including the tall bearded.

There are two big factors in growing Louisianas in the Midwest. I call the factors the big M's. The big M's are MULCH AND MOISTURE. If you can supply the two, you won't have any trouble with these beautiful, elegant irises. Basic culture tips for Midwest growers follow:

SOIL PREPARATION: Louisianas need an acid soil. If your soil is alkaline, you can dig in two to three pounds of soil sulphur per 100 square feet. Prepare your beds in advance and let the soil settle somewhat before planting time. The sulphur lasts up to three years in our area, depending on how much rainfall we get. You can also improve your soil by adding rotten manures, rotten hay or straw, peat moss, or compost. Clay soils are very good for Louisianas since they hold moisture, but the addition of humus to the clay-based soil is very beneficial. Don't make the soil so loose that the stalks will blow over during heavy rains and winds. This usually happens when stalks are in full bloom and have several open blooms. I have seen this happen in our boggy area where a truck load of manure was dumped. The Louisianas loved all the humus, but the soil was so soft and loose that there was not enough firm soil to anchor the rhizome in, and when heavy rain and wind came along at bloom time, the whole rhizome toppled over, including the bloom stalk. A well-balanced fertilizer can also be worked into the soil prior to planting—12-12-12 or similar will do fine. The Louisianas will tell you if the soil is too sweet by turning a pale, sickly green. Don't judge the foliar color until the weather has warmed up sufficiently. From January to late March our Louisianas look very pale; sometimes the foliage is almost white. Don't be alarmed, this is the dormant color. As soon as the weather warms up, green will return to their foliage. Louisiana irises are the most resilient irises we grow. They can come back quickly after very sharp freezes in the early spring.

LOCATION: Louisianas need almost a full day of sun to bloom well in the Midwest. The farther north you live, the more sun you should provide for them. In our garden, we have found that afternoon shade is very good since the Louisianas in that specific area of the garden seem to hold their color and form longer, have greener foliage, and have a longer duration of bloom than other varieties planted in full sun. If you have a very moist area, by all means try some Louisianas there. They will grow in standing water with no drainage at all. We have some planted around our ponds. These get no mulch or fertilizer. The water over them serves as a mulch, and the fertilizer comes from the rich water of the pond. The Louisianas around and in the pond bloom almost two weeks earlier than the ones in other areas. The plants are taller, the

foliage wider, and the blooms more glorious. Here lies one of the big M's—moisture. If you have no boggy area, ponds, or small lakes, never fear. You can grow Louisianas too. All you have to do is dig your beds lower than the natural soil line. This way, when you water or get natural rainfall, the water will stand for a while in this depression and be soaked up by the rhizomes and the mulch material.

FERTILIZER: Louisianas are heavy feeders. When the rhizomes are kept mulched the year round, you must keep them well fed. Acid-type fertilizers, such as the ones sold for azaleas, are excellent as is Mir-acid. Mir-acid is a foliar type fertilizer and is very fast acting. In our garden, we fertilize about six weeks prior to bloom time (around April 10, or when the plants start greening up) and again after the plants finish blooming, somewhere around mid to late June. DO NOT let your Louisianas go dormant in the hot part of the summer. Keep them green by watering and fertilizing them. We have lost very few Louisianas to the winter, but if we let them go completely dormant in the summer, they usually can't be saved.

MULCH: Mulch is essential to the survival of Louisianas in the Midwest. We keep ours mulched the year round. Extra mulch will have to be added if you grow the Louisianas in a boggy area. Ours need to be re-mulched at least twice a year plus extra "fluffy" mulch added for the winter. We *never* remove mulch from our Louisianas. Before we add mulch, a layer of fertilizer is added as the heavy mulch "zaps" the nitrogen from the soil. In the areas where we have grown Louisianas for a number of years, the soil is like potting soil from all the decomposition of the mulches. Earthworms abound in our Louisiana beds. We, as fishermen, can always find worms, even during periods of drought. We also use the sheet-composting method of mulching the beds in regular garden soil. Sheet-composting is a method of mulching where solid flakes of straw or spoiled hay are applied. This method lasts much longer than the "fluffy" way. You can use various forms of mulch. We use mostly straw and spoiled hay. Other possible mulches are rotten bark, shredded bark, pine needles, trimmings from evergreen bushes, rotten sawdust, ground corn cobs, leaves, grass clippings, etc. If you have none of these, just use extra soil. By all means, use some form of mulch. Be careful with the barks and sawdust. Let them age some by composting them. If used while they are still green, they will take the nitrogen from the soil.

MOISTURE: For most varieties of Louisianas, the more water the better! But there are a few exceptions to this rule. Louisianas with *brevicaulis* (*foliosa*) in their backgrounds require much less water than others. *Brevicaulis* is a species iris that grows naturally in upland pastures. The Louisianas hybridized by Arkansas hybridizers Chowning, Rowlan, Morgan, Butler and Campbell seem to be happy in regular garden soil and are very hardy in the Midwest. These irises don't need such a heavy layer of mulch as they are quite hardy. *Brevicaulis* has been used in the hybridizing of these Arkansas growers.



Bayou Shadows



Shrimp Creole



Eastertide



Deneb



Martin Redmond

TRANSPLANTING: We have found that early transplanting is the best. We move the Louisianas just as they finish their bloom and in mid August to late September. It is not usually wise to transplant in early July to early August in our area as this time is usually very hot and dry. If transplanting is done late, an extra mulch is needed and plants should be well watered until the ground freezes. Rhizomes should be planted one to one and one half inches deep and about twelve to eighteen inches apart. Our Louisianas usually don't go completely dormant until it is very cold, usually January. The plants should always be mulched to protect the rhizomes from sun scald. As the clumps expand, the rhizomes work their way to the top of the soil. If you see rhizomes on top of the soil, either plant them deeper or add more mulch. The exposed rhizomes are in danger of being damaged by frigid weather or rotted by sun scald.

PEST AND DISEASES: The iris borer loves the large, fleshy rhizome of the Louisianas. Spray with Cygon 2-E when the temperature reaches 70 degrees. This is when the baby borers begin to hatch. Lindane also is effective for us for borer control. White streaks on the foliage indicate leaf miners. Cygon also works for control of leaf miners. Rust is a red, powdery deposit on the foliage. Iris fulva is very susceptible to rust. A systemic fungicide developed for ornamentals has proven effective in controlling rust. Rust seems to be more active under moist conditions such as heavy rains, fog, high humidity, and artificial overhead watering. Rust is not fatal, but is unsightly. Slugs and snails are a big problem. Bait is very effective, but it is quite toxic. Shallow pans of beer can be effective, but our dog kept lapping the beer before the slugs could discover it. The slugs and snails do most of their damage at night. If you use Cygon 2-E for borer control, this should also take care of the slugs and snails. Cut worms have done heavy damage to Louisianas in the past. This usually takes place during the early spring. Yellowing of the foliage tells you that the cut worms are busy at the base of the plants. Diazinon takes care of the cut worms. We use it in the fall and in the early spring.

GENERAL CARE: Cut off old stalks unless you plan on keeping the seed pods. Old, brown dead foliage can be trimmed off. Yellow-green foliage tells you that the plants need iron and sulphur. If the plants don't become green by late spring, add a handful of iron and sulphur and repeat the process if the plants don't respond. The beds will look neater during the winter if the foliage is trimmed. We usually do this in December. The stubby foliage also holds the extra, fluffy mulch which we usually add in December.

The following are some Louisianas I would recommend for beginners in the Midwest.

Reds: Ann Chowning, Scamp, Creole Flame, Simple Melody, Town Council, Red Dazzler, and News Brief.

Blues: (light to mid): Bit of Blue, Sea Wisp, Clyde Redmond, Graceland, and La Prouse.

White: Charlie's Angel, Acadian Miss, and Barbara Elaine Taylor.

Blends: Bramble Queen, Gypsy Moon, Delta Dawn, Gold Reserve, Vested

Ways, and Cajun Caper.

Yellows: Dixie Deb, Sunny Episode, Martin Redmond, Fading Beauty, Sun Fury, and Lucille Holley.

Deep Blues and Purples: Grace Scott, Marie Caillet, Delta Star, Mac's Blue Heaven, and Mentida.

Near Black: Black Gamecock and Full Eclipse.

Pinks: Rose Cartwheel, Bayou Shadow, lone, Deneb, Handmaiden, and This I Love.

Lavenders: Merry Whirl, Mrs. Ira Nelson, Bob Ward, Kung Fu, Pegaletta, and Bryce Leigh.

Browns: Louisiana Teddy Bear, Dean Lee, Tressie Cook, and Bayou Honey.

Bitones: Top Notch, Colorific, and May Roy.

Roses and Maroons: Charlie's Ginny, Acadian, Mary's Charlie, Little Miss Sims, Strange Romance, Royal Velour, Chuck, Charlie's Tress, and New-comer.

Louisianas are easy to grow if you remember the two big M's of Mulch and Moisture. They bloom just after the tall beardededs and extend the bloom season. They make excellent cut flowers and are knock outs at the iris shows. Try a few; you will be well-rewarded for your efforts!!

Louisiana Beds at Wilhoit's Garden.



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IN MEMORIAM

Agnes Hale (GA)

William D. Simon (MI)

Dovie Brady (TX)

Dovie Esta Lea Jamison was born in Jacksboro, Texas, on June 8, 1911, and died on December 7, 1987, at the age of 75. She was found in the front yard of her home near Dumont, Texas.

Dovie was a member of the Dumont First Baptist Church and had taught Sunday School for over twenty years. She married Willie Darien Brady on March 13, 1933, in Waurika, Oklahoma. They lived on a farm between Paducah and Matador, Texas until they moved to Jacksboro and then to Dumont where they both lived for the remainder of their lives. They had two children, John Darien and Anita Lea.

Dovie always loved flowers and had grown many different kinds. In the late 1940's, she was given a hybrid iris that was so much better than the "flags" familiar to her. That was the beginning of her love and work with the irises. She had a garden full of irises until she died. Dovie's lifelong dream was to hybridize a true red iris, and she worked many years toward that goal. She had many beautiful seedlings which she gave to her friends to grow, but she introduced only two irises. She was very particular in that she did not want to introduce any iris that was similar to others or was not better than those on the market. Anniversary Waltz, a horned iris, was introduced in 1972. Whoop Em Up was named for her husband. It was a nickname he had acquired while working as a cowboy for years. When he was ill, Dovie brought two seedlings for him to see, and Whoop 'Em Up was one of them. He told her it was her best one. It was introduced in 1973 and won an HM in 1976, an AM in 1978, and the Knowlton Medal in 1981.

Dovie had been a faithful member of the South Plains Iris Society and was known for being a lovely, kind, and generous person. She was an AIS judge and had been appointed as a Master Judge at the November, 1987, board meeting. She had been a member of AIS since 1962.

Dovie is survived by her daughter, a step daughter, two sisters, a brother, and six grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY: Send to The American Iris Society, Jeane Stayer, Secretary, 7414 E. 60th St., Tulsa, OK 74145.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION: Send to AIS Foundation, Richard T. Pettijohn, Treasurer, 2510 S. 148th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Note: please include name and address of next-of-kin pertaining to memorial gifts, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Checks should be payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation.

My Goals in Hybridizing Louisiana Irises

Henry C. Rowlan

Louisiana irises are a great flower, but they do have some faults that the hybridizer needs to remove, if at all possible, to attract more growers. Many of these faults or points for improvement form the basis for my hybridizing goals.

HARDINESS is my first goal. This is a must if the Louisianas are to survive the cold, harsh winter conditions in the northern part of the United States, Canada, and much of Europe. Growers in these areas know that most Louisiana irises will grow for them with the precaution of using a heavy mulch in the winter. Breeding more hardiness into them might make it possible to use less mulch or to lose few plants. I find that *I. giganticaerulea*, which is used a great deal in Louisiana and other warm area breeding programs, has a tendency to be tender as far south as Little Rock, Arkansas. I believe that by getting the right genes into the Louisiana irises this tenderness can be overcome to a great degree and hardier plants will result. I am working on this with the use of the species Frank Chowning used in his breeding program: *I. fulva*, *I. brevicaulis* and *I. Hexagona*. Using these species will give smaller blossoms and smaller rhizomes and also both earlier and later bloom on the Louisianas. This will make a longer bloom season as well as having a hardier plant. Crosses with *I. brevicaulis* result in later bloom while crosses with *I. fulva* result in earlier bloom and a tendency to possible rebloom.

My second goal is COMPACTNESS in growth habits. As we all know, most of the Louisiana irises have wandering rhizomes that move two feet or more in a year. Just think of all the smaller gardens on small size lots where Louisianas could grow. I have had a great number of people tell us they like the Louisianas but will not grow them because of their spreading rhizomes. I cannot blame them for this. I have these wanderers in my own garden and cannot at times figure which clump they came from. This means I must dig and dispose of them. I have made some progress in compactness, but not as much as I would like. My 1981 introduction, Winter's Veil, has very nice compact growth. I had 25 increases within a 12 inch radius that made a lovely clump when 10 stalks were in bloom. I find compactness is really hard to get, but once in a while you do get lucky. I have cut down the wandering considerably in a number of my new seedlings.

My third goal is to get a constant REBLOOMING Louisiana. Efforts along this line show that if I work long enough on it, I can get a reliable and constant fall rebloomer eventually. I have found that *I. fulva* has a tendency to cause reblooming at certain times in the fall. During a four year span of checking, I had a fairly constant October bloom on some of my *fulva* hybrids, using both the terracotta and yellow *fulvas*. To get them to rebloom here in Arkansas, we have to give possible rebloomers a lot of tender loving care during the summer when it is so dry. Chowning's Missey Reveley has rebloomed many

times for me in the fall and I use it with *I. fulva* to get other possible rebloomers. My Red Echo does rebloom for me in October if all conditions are right during the summer. I have had reports from different areas of the country that both my Red Echo and Sea Wisp rebloom for them.

My fourth and last major goal is to develop a DWARF line of Louisiana irises, with a 12 to 18 inch height range and with the foliage and flowers in proportion to the shorter stalks. I have no trouble in getting the small 2½ to 3½ inch blossom, which would be suitable for a dwarf size Louisiana. It is a fault to always want bigger blossoms, thinking this makes them better. To me, a smaller 4 to 5 inch blossom is just as good as your bigger, floppy 7 inch flower. Larger flowers will fall over on the ground when heavy rains or high winds hit them in Arkansas or in other areas with heavy rains and high winds. My main problem in dwarf Louisianas is the foliage height in relation to the stalk. The foliage height must be shorter than the 12 to 18 inch stalk to be in proportion—blossom to stalk to foliage. I find this to be the hardest of my goals to attain and I have had a great many heartaches with this program. At this time, I have one dwarf that is constant in the height I am looking for—a blue and white seedling with 15 inch stalks and 12 inch high foliage. This year I had a small double white with the same heights of the blue/white seedling bloom for me. I will check it out next year to see if it still has the same height range in stalk and foliage. I have had trouble getting Chowning's small 12 inch ones, such as Trail of Tears and Petite and Sweet, to bloom for me. They would help me in my quest if they would only bloom. Maybe they will in 1988!

All of my hybridizing goals tie in with each other. They would benefit people who like the Louisianas and say they would like to grow them, but do not do so because of small yards. A dwarf type would take less room than the tall, spreading varieties and would be a solution for the problem of space. Compact clumps would give a better display for the space a plant occupies. Rebloomers would add color in the fall as well as in the spring and everyone would benefit from cold hardy, easy to grow Louisiana irises.



Bryce Leigh



Strange Romance

Growing Louisianas in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Larry Westfall

My interest in growing Louisianas began in 1981. At that time, my wife, Joy, and I had been growing iris for about five years and that was limited to tall bearded and a few Siberians. Bill Hirsch, a local, longtime irisarian, was always trying to generate interest among the rest of us to grow other types of iris. I purchased two cultivars (Bryce Leigh and Full Eclipse) through our Delaware Valley Iris Society's iris program. I added Ann Chowning, Prof. Claude, and Shrimp Louis in 1982, Harland K. Riley and Andy Dandy in 1983. I still knew very little about their culture except they like to be mulched and their pH on the acid side.

I became hooked on the Louisianas when Ann Chowning sent up two perfect stalks in the spring of 1984. The flowers were bright currant red with brilliant gold signals—three flowers opened at once and show branched to boot! I added eleven more that year which included Clara Goula, Delta Fox, Gulf Shores, Monument, Rhett, and others.

Joy and I attended our first AIS convention at Indianapolis in 1985. We went to the Louisiana training session which was presented by Dr. Robert Bledsoe of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His program added more fuel to my fire! Before leaving that night, I joined the Society of Louisiana Iris—I wanted more Louisianas and needed more information about growing them.

That summer I added over fifty Louisianas, then in 1986 and 1987 even more. I am now growing over one hundred and fifty of them. Most of the varieties I have were introduced in the late 60's and 70's and the early 80's. I plan to remain with approximately this many each year—one must go for each new one I grow. (That's what we all say, right!?) I am trying to find which ones are winter hardy and which are compact but vigorous growers. Many people haven't wanted to grow them here because of those two reasons. School's still out on compactness, but all have survived the winter here.

I live on a shale ridge which is better suited for growing bearded irises. I can't go down a full shovel blade without getting into the shale, so I have most of the Louisianas growing in two spots—one is the end of my ex-vegetable garden which has benefitted from tilled in tree leaves and the other spot was fill dirt when my garage was built. My soil has a pH range of 6.5-7.0. I feed the Louisianas three times yearly with Miracid (early spring, after bloom, and early September) and one feeding of Hollytone (also in the spring). I mulch them with approximately two inches of mushroom soil (mostly peat and horse manure) followed with another two inches of pine needles, pine chips, oak leaves, or anything else handy. I apply this mulch after the first feeding in the spring, and if needed, will add additional mulch before winter. I try to maintain a minimum of three inches year round.

Borers and thrips are my major insect pests. I spray Cygon 2E three

times—end of March (three days of 70 degrees), end of April, and about June 1 when the bloom stalks start coming up. I used to only spray in March and April, but the thrips were so bad in 1986 that I now will spray in June.

The only problem I have with rot is what I call “spring sickness.” It appears to be caused by some warm weather which triggers growth to begin followed by a few days of well below freezing. The foliage becomes mushy at the point where live tissue meets dead tissue. I usually pull or clip this mushy foliage off and let the sun dry it. If that doesn’t stop it, I again clean the foliage and then spray with Agri-Strep. If this rot should happen to reach the rhizome, you will not get a bloomstalk, but this in turn usually triggers large amounts of increases from this rhizome. So, a lost bloom results in an instant clump!

The Louisianas are all planted in full sun. With peak bloom in mid-June, the hot sun is not normally a factor while they are in bloom. Last spring was an exception—many days that the temperature exceeded 90 degrees during peak bloom resulted in everything blooming at once with flowers lasting only two days. So far, none have gone dormant during the summer as they do in some of the southern states. The foliage remains quite green and doesn’t get the mid summer blahs the way my tall bearded do.

Some of the reds which are doing well for me are Ann Chowning (Chowning ’76) a currant red with a large gold signal, Bold Pretender (Morgan ’83) a sparkling deep red with a yellow ray signal, Red Echo (Rowlan ’84) an early terra cotta red very similar to Red Dazzler, but taller. Two red bitones are Scamp (Arny ’73) a dark red bitone with excellent branching and Freddie Boy (Mertzweiller ’74) a rose and red bitone.

My favorites of the yellows are Sunny Episode (Rowlan ’84) a pure sunfast yellow with green signals and styles that is very well branched and loaded with buds (This was the most popular yellow among visitors this year.) Sun Fury (Arny ’80) a late, light gold with green signals which also has excellent branching and bud count, Fantastic (Dunn ’81) a smooth light yellow with light ruffling, and Brushed Gold (Morgan ’83) a yellow gold with good substance.

Two bicolors that caught everyone’s eye were Colorific (Mertzweiller ’79) a beautiful combination of white stands and rose falls and Eastertide (Arny ’79) a yellow and blue combination. Another bicolor that had many oohs and aahs was Bob Ward (Morgan ’82) which has white stands and styles and its falls are such a pale lavender that it can appear to be almost white.

Lavender Ruffles (Goula ’79) is my favorite of the ruffled ones. Naughty Lady (Ghio ’73) was a stunning clump of a velvety magenta, umbrella-shaped flowers this year. Delta Dawn (Dunn ’83) is an excellent compact grower. It has many stalks every year, displaying flowers of a blended pink, mauvewood, and blue color, very reminiscent of early dawn color.

Valera (Arny ’80) is a very different color also—coffee with light cream with a yellow signal. Black Gamecock (Chowning ’80) is my favorite of the dark purple blacks. It has a narrow gold line signal, is well branched, and is one of the most vigorous Louisianas. Monument (Dunn ’78) is a lightly ruffled warm white with creamy styles and yellow spear-shaped signals.

Two Australian cultivars that I fell in love with this past summer are E. C. Everingham (Raabe '80) a rich violet with a large yellow signal and Brookvale Overture (Murray '84) a large cream self with yellow signal.

Louisianas are becoming quite popular in this area. All who visit my garden during bloom season are very impressed by their beauty and their colors. Many are now growing them. Longwood Gardens (an internationally known display garden) planted six cultivars in their Idea Garden this year, and they are interested in more. Two local nurseries will be selling them next year. I believe this is a first in this area. I think this trend will continue and Louisianas will no longer be strangers to the people of southeastern Pennsylvania.

Louisiana Irises in Minnesota

Joan Cooper

Minnesota may not be a gardener's heaven, but it certainly isn't as inhospitable to plant life as many (even natives) believe. I long ago concluded that any plant that can withstand complete freezing can probably do well in our deep freeze, where it will remain frozen for some four to five months in a normal winter. Freezing and thawing is not our problem—when the ground (sometimes frozen to four or five foot depths) finally thaws out in the spring, the weather is probably warm and settled for that year.

Long ago I met my first Louisiana iris, the indestructible DOROTHEA K. WILLIAMSON (Williamson 1918), which, in spite of its rather lax stems and tendency to outweed the weeds, is a thing of beauty and a joy forever—and ever. I also had fallen heir to a plant I identified as *I. brevicaulis* that was reported to have been a 50 year resident here. And not long after that, at an MDB Convention in Indiana, I bought all the beardless species I could afford from Earl Roberts' collection, including a dwarf form of *I. fulva*. All grew and prospered.

Naturally, being an iris nut, I determined to try some more Louisianas—Why should only these I had be hardy? My first acquisition was KATHERINE L. CORNAY (Arny '62), which certainly proved that not all Louisianas are for Minnesota! It suffered through many winters and by fall was hale and hearty again, but it took all summer recovering and never managed a bloom. I finally sent it and its miserly increases off to warmer climates as customer extras.

No other Louisianas I have tried have been such miserable failures and neither has any been as aggressive as old DOROTHEA K. WILLIAMSON. Except for the species, I'll not deal with the failures here, but only the successes.

I. brevicaulis and *I. fulva* have been plant hardy in every clone I have tried and most bloom well. *I. nelsonii* has proven plant hardy but shy of bloom in both the red and yellow forms. The "Abbeville red" form occasionally blooms and the yellow is relatively new to me. Even when the temperature dropped suddenly to –15 F. after a mild early November. Some bits and pieces lived but many other usually hardy plants took a beating as well.

Experimenting with new introductions can get quite expensive, so most of those I buy are in the low price range. I have gotten some newer ones on trial from Arkansas breeders and an occasional good buy at an auction or in trade or in a collection. Species are still my specialty, so I am always first on the lookout for the new clones of species and/or near species.

Generally speaking, the blues have been the best bloomers for me. Clyde Redmond (Arny '71) is super reliable as are Little Rock Skies (Chowning '80), Bayou Waters (Rowlan '81), Bit of Blue (Arny '75), La Perouse (Raqbe '76) and darker blue Graceland (Dunn '80.)

In tones toward violet and purple, good doers include Buxom (Dunn '81), which I lost in that sudden temperature drop last year, Francois (Rowlan '85), Pegaletta (Holleyman '63), Pledge (Ghio '76), Roll Call (MacMillan '76), Sea Wisp (Rowlan '84) and the darling, smallish, raspberry-toned Little Miss Sims (Chowning '78).

Black Gamecock (Chowning '80) has come closest to Dorothea K. Williamson type vigor and never fails to bloom. Contrary to what our neighbor in South Dakota reports, I have found Black Widow (MacMillan '53) to be reliable, and I find its spidery look most appealing. Full Eclipse (Hager '78) has also done very well here.

I had almost given up on whites when I got Bob Ward (Morgan '82), which is slightly pink and gorgeous, and Acadian Miss (Arny '80), another special favorite of mine. Yellows also seem not too frequent bloomers with the exception of old Dixie Deb (Chowning '51) and Sunny Episode (Rowlan '84).

The orangey yellows and bronzes include several good doers, such as Bayou Comus (Arny '69), Bronze Trophy (Rowlan '84), Count Pulaski (Chowning '80), Harland K. Riley (MacMillan '73), Gold Reserve (Chowning '77), and Louisiana Teddybear (Arny '76). These last two are among my favorites.

In the pink-lavender-orchid range, performers of some quality are Bryce Leigh (Chowning '77), Charlie's Michele (Arny '77), May Roy (Granger '72), Shrimp Creole (Ghio '75) and another of my favorites, This I Love (Chowning '76).

Next to the blues, the reds I have tried seem most likely to succeed, including Ann Chowning (Chowning '77), Captain Bill (Conger '56), which I seem to have lost some way, F.A.C. McCulla (Arny '73), Freddie Boy (Mertzweiller '74), Red Dazzler (Hale '69), Red Gamecock (Chowning '77), Scamp (Arny '73), and Walter Dupree III (Arny '71). Red Dazzler, often purported to be especially hardy, does no better than the others in my garden and is hardly as striking, though it has the species look I like.

I will certainly keep trying other Louisianas to find out which like the north and which I like the best. They are a great new experience in iris, and I wonder why more people are not getting on their bandwagon. They are so easy to grow and have such marvelous colors. I should add that the bloom season here follows the tall bearded and the Siberians, and they are more successful than the spurias which bloom at the same time for me.

As to care, I give them my soggiest (not very) soil and add as much organic matter as I can. I water them well when we don't have spring rains. I think they

would bloom better if I divided and replanted more often. I winter protect them with a layer of straw as I do all my irises and other perennials. And I must watch them carefully for iris borers, who take out the bloom stalks if they can. For this little care I am amply rewarded!

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July 12, 1987 to January 11, 1988

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Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

BEAUTY IS MORE THAN BLOSSOM DEEP

This is the time of year when we are all reminded of what made us iris lovers, the glorious blossoms. Sometimes we are so bedazzled by the blooms we forget about the other attributes our favorite plant possesses.

Probably the greatest of these attributes is the general hardiness and vigor of the plants. Different types of irises have different cultural requirements, but almost all can tolerate quite a wide range beyond what is considered their ideal environment. While other plants of an equally showy nature may take what the average gardener would term "pampering", irises generally thrive without. Irises are relatively free of insects and diseases and demand little in the way of special attention.

Bearing in mind that this ease of culture is an important part of the popularity of the iris it is our responsibility as serious iris growers to see that this level of hardiness remains high.

About three years ago this column gave suggestions for keeping an iris journal. That advice pertained especially to recording all the beautiful blooms with photographs, pictures cut from color catalogs, and through written records. If you haven't done so already, maybe now is the time to look beyond the flowers. Study the whole plant. Examine the color, erectness, and overall appearance of the foliage. Make note of how much new growth the plant puts out each year as well as how many bloom stalks. Remember, we don't want it to "bloom out." If you take photographs of your irises, you might want to consider two of each variety. One photo can be the traditional closeup of the blossom, and another shot could include the whole plant to remind you of the total effect. One picture can be worth a thousand words, but the words are still valuable. Later in the growing season when the blossoms have faded, we're not apt to be photographing our iris plants, but we should still be observing them. Stroll through your garden on a regular basis, and unless you have a keen memory, jot down your observations about the plants. Be sure to make note of different weather conditions or gardening practices that may be affecting the performance of the irises. For an idea of the specific qualities you should be looking for in each type of iris, consult the Judges' Handbook.

An iris journal can help you decide which varieties are truly your all around favorites. Let's look for those that not only "put on a show", but also grow! Remember that a journal is one of the best ways of extending your iris season. When winter comes you can relive the fun of bloom and growth by reading and looking at all you have recorded. Have fun, and let your enjoyment of the iris grow.

THE LOUISIANAS

A Love Story from Maryland

Doris Simpson

When I began growing irises, I tried to embrace the genus, planting as many different types as I could. Over the years a process of selection has weeded out those unsuited to my garden. My love/hate relationship with Tall Bearded irises went on for years before we finally parted company. I loved the flowers—hated the plants and they hated my garden. The intermediates, being less temperamental, have made a place for themselves, but I found among the beardless irises the ones that give me the most lasting satisfaction. The Siberians, Japanese and Louisianas are here to stay. Perhaps I should qualify that statement—*some* of the Siberians and Japanese stay; some sink into the ground, never to reappear. They leave no notes behind, so I never know what I did wrong—nor am I any wiser about what I'm doing right to the ones that thrive. Perhaps this is their heritage from The Mysterious East. I try to be philosophical and persevere, since the flowers are so beautiful and the plants are not troublesome, just strange. The Louisianas are something else again—they speak my language. Whether their native American origin accounts for this I don't know, but I can "read" them as I can no other iris. I have lost a few plants within the first year of planting, usually shortly after receiving them, but I have never (knock on wood!) lost a well established Louisiana. They have made their needs plain and I have been able to give them what they want. The only thing I cannot give them is the space they would occupy if only it were available. Even this far north of their homeland, a "happy" Louisiana is a plant on the move!

For my first plants I made an "acid bed" according to the instructions that came with them from California. Later I found that our naturally acid soil doesn't require replacement, especially since Louisianas love clay loam if there is ample nourishment. Now I dig in peat, compost and manure but leave the clay. I set the rhizomes with an inch of soil covering them, water in well, mulch, and keep the bed moist. In the Baltimore area you can plant or transplant Louisianas in early summer, late summer or early fall. As long as you can keep them well watered until established, they will do well. Planting after September is tricky, since we can get frosts in mid October. I feel it is better to plant too early rather than too late. The plants are evergreen the year 'round.



I keep the beds mulched all year with a combination of peat, compost, and old or processed manure. This is renewed each spring when the winter mulch is removed. I add to it in the summer and again in the fall. An organic mulch breaks down quickly; also, the rhizomes climb out of it as they grow and have to be covered. The fall mulch is topped with 6-8 inches, or more, of pine needles or oak leaves when winter comes. I remove this in April, clean up the plants, drench with insecticide and promptly put on the spring mulch. This is an area of high rainfall and most winters we get fairly heavy snows which further insulate the plants from severe cold. I don't depend on the snow to do the entire job—I'm just grateful for the extra protection when/if it comes.

Application of a systemic drench (I use Cygon 2-E) in late fall before the winter mulch goes on and again in the spring after it is removed is a fairly effective protection from the one pest that bothers Louisianas in this area. Iris Borers have a nasty habit of getting inside Louisiana bud sheaths and eating up the flower buds before the gardener is even aware of their presence. A determined campaign of insecticide drenches, followed up by search-and-destroy is necessary. In their Deep South habitat Louisianas are not troubled by Borers, but that is only because there are none around. I think Borers prefer Louisianas to any other iris. The full grown larva that you find in Louisiana rhizomes have to be seen to be believed. I prefer to drench the rhizomes and surrounding soil, because the waxy coating on Louisiana leaves retards absorption of sprays. My plants have never had any leaf problems.

As to their main cultural requirements, the most important one is simply—water. Unlike Japanese Iris, which dislike wet feet in winter, Louisianas will grow the year 'round in standing water. This is certainly not necessary to them, but indicates their ability to utilize as much water as they can get. An ample supply, from the heavens or the hose, is a *sine qua non* for the best growth and bloom. None of my Louisiana beds are sunken to hold water, in fact my entire garden is on a slope, so I water more frequently than I would if run-off were not a problem. Some of my friends in this area are without access to a city water supply and grow Louisianas with much less water than mine get. Since I can give them the water—and I know they like it—I keep watering.

Louisianas, in addition to being thirsty, are gross feeders. I supplement the organic mulches with fertilizer, most frequently a soluble one, such as Stern's Mir Acid, plus Epsom Salts (to provide the magnesium not in the Mir Acid formula). These I use at the rate of one Tablespoon of each to 1 gallon of water. I apply this at 10 day to 2 week intervals from 6 weeks before bloom time throughout the summer. Unless stressed by extreme drought, the plants do not go dormant here, and since our growing season is so much shorter than that of Louisiana they need to grow actively from spring until fall. (Our latest average frost date is May 15—our first average in fall is October 15.)

Some of the varieties that do well and are personal favorites are:

Marie Caillet (Conger '63) a vigorous, tall, deep blue-purple with upright standards. At its best it can grow 50 inches high, with 5 flowers open at once, up and down the stalk. Stupendous!

Ila Nunn (Arny '57) another tall plant with large flowers of great beauty in shades of cream. An outstanding variety.

Deneb (Arny '67) a large flat pink with styles of chartreuse and pale yellow. Lower growing than the two above.

Carolyn La Point (Arny '73) a smaller flower than Deneb though similar in color. Not as opulent a flower but worth growing because of its vigor and generous flowering.

Evelyn Boon (Arny '72) an exquisite bi-color with pale blue standards and cream-yellow falls—a lovely thing.

Freddy Boy (Merzweiller '74) a velvety mulberry-rose bitone that is a super favorite of mine. The wide rounded falls are delicately fringed at the edges. The flat flowers approach those of Japanese Iris in elegance of form. The plants are vigorous and bloom well.

Mrs. Ira Nelson (Arny '69) another glamorous flower—a huge, beautiful, lavender-orchid.

Three flowers, new to me, bloomed for the first time last summer and immediately won a place on my list:

Acadian Miss (Arny '80) a gorgeous frilled, pure white on a vigorous plant.

President Hedley (Merzweiller '80) a clear brilliant yellow with big flat flowers. Great!

Mac's Blue Heaven (Mac Millian '73) for charisma and color contrast this one is hard to equal. The wide, soft blue flowers, centered with shining white style arms, stop you in your tracks. The plant is large, husky and long-blooming.

I began by saying I could "read" Louisianas, How? When a Louisiana rhizome puts out side growths flanking the central growing point, that rhizome is ready for bloom. Until side growths are present the rhizome is not yet ready to bloom. Louisianas are not far removed from the wild species and they retain their primal vigor—no "bloom-out", no "suicide" for them! As cultivated plants they are mere infants and man has not yet succeeded in making them into delicate, "miffy" creatures. Of all the irises I love these the best—for their full spectrum of colors, their silken beauty and their robust good nature. My tiny garden is not designed to contain these plants, whose chief delight is to "ramp around and paddle in the puddles", but one gardens with the heart as well as the head, and the Louisianas and I are involved in a blazing love affair!

AWARDS ERRATA

The following iris was inadvertently omitted from the list of winners in the October, 1987 BULLETIN.

HONORABLE MENTION **AZTEC TREASURE** (R. & L. Miller) 41 votes.

1987 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Everette Lineberger

The AIS Membership Contest proved to be a tightly contested race in 1987, with the winner emerging at the last minute. W. W. Vines of Huntingdon, Tennessee, won the contest with a total of 605 points obtained by enrolling a total of 44 new memberships, many of them involving family memberships. Bill is a newcomer to the contest, and like his mentor, Joe Christopher, a previous winner from Region 7, he has signed up new members wherever he has gone, seizing every opportunity to talk about AIS.

The runnersup this year were:

Bryce Williamson, Region 14 575 points
Koen Engelen, Overseas Region 450 points
Clarence Mahan, Region 4 400 points

All three of these earned more points than the first place winner last year (Paul Black, 370 points). It is especially noteworthy that an overseas member, Koen Engelen of Belgium, placed third with *44 new members!* Koen plans to attend the Oklahoma City convention this year.

All in all, it was a fantastic year for the membership contest. Competition was very keen. Eight regions participated this year (nine last year). There were no affiliates participating in the affiliate division. Region 7 again had the most participants with 14; no other region was even close to having this number.

The total point standing by regions was as follows:

Region	Members Participating	Total Points
7	14	1135
14	3	645
Overseas	1	450
4	1	400
21	6	325
22	1	245
5	3	75
6	1	10

William W. Vines will receive the plaque presented to the first place winner of the 1987 Membership Contest at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 7 in Oklahoma City. Those who have the most points in each region (with a minimum of 25) will be mailed a Certificate of Achievement. They are: Region 4, Clarence Mahan, 400 points; Region 5, Earnest Yearwood, 45; Region 14, Bryce Williamson, 575; Region 21, Lynn Stoll, 120; Region 22, Paul Black, 245; and Overseas, Koen Engelen, 450.

Thanks to all who participated and encouraged others to do so.

1988 Membership Contest

The 1988 Membership Contest will recognize both individuals and affiliates who enroll new members in A.I.S. during the current calendar year.

During the 1989 A.I.S. National Convention, one award will be presented to an individual and one to an A.I.S. Affiliate who have accumulated the largest number of points in the contest. As has been the custom in the past, the individual in each region who obtains the highest number of points (with a minimum of 30) will be awarded a certificate of achievement. Names of the national winners will be published in the April 1989 BULLETIN.

Each affiliate must decide whether its members will participate in the contest on an individual or group basis. Points will be credited in each division as follows:

- 10 points for each new single annual membership
- 15 points for each new family annual
- 20 points for each new single triennial
- 25 points for each new family triennial
- 10 points for converting single annual to single triennial
- 20 points for converting family annual to family triennial
- 5 points for converting single to family

Please note: No points are given for youth memberships.

Rules

1. Application for membership and payment of dues should be made to the A.I.S. Membership Secretary, not to the Contest Chairman.
2. Notice of new membership should be sent to RVP and/or Regional Membership Chairman within 30 days.
3. All Regional Membership Chairpersons should send new member information to their RVPs for verification.
4. Each new membership should be reported on separate 3x5 card or piece of paper listing the following information: Region number, membership number of new member (if available); type of membership—single, family, youth, life, annual, triennial; name and address of new member; name and address of sponsoring member of affiliate.
5. Membership information should be submitted promptly to the A.I.S. Contest Chairman Mary Kearney, Route 3, Box 412, Guntersville, AL 35976 at least once each quarter. Only those memberships properly reported will be counted.
6. New memberships should be credited only to the participant or affiliate actually securing them.
7. Renewal of memberships after a lapse of two years will count as new members.
8. New memberships received by the Membership Secretary after January 7, 1989 will not be counted for the 1988 contest.

FLIGHTLINES

Round Robin Program

Sam Reece, 633 Kindred, Richardson, Texas 75080

Louisianas

Oren Campbell, North Little Rock, AR: One nice thing about growing irises is that what works best in one area may not work in another. Some will have to apply the pollen in early morning; others will have the most takes later in the day. Whatever method that works best for you should be used. Soils differ so much that even across town may dictate cultures to be used. Speaking of STRANGE ROMANCE, I am getting some very interesting seedlings from her. All are large flowers and vary in color from a pale violet, nearly white, pale yellow, and red purple. Two even had signals on all flower parts. One that Frank Chowning was especially fond of was a pale violet with a nine-inch flower and six signals. I was not impressed as there was only one bloom stalk on the two-year clump, and the foliage was a foot taller than the bloomstalk. I will look at it another year and probably will want to discard it.

I believe I mentioned before that the seeds from STRANGE ROMANCE germinate in only a few weeks when I plant them ninety days after the pod is set. About 90% are albinos and, of course, die. Those that come up the second year are all normal. I have talked with many people who should know, and so far, no one has a firm answer. Some think there is white in both of the parents. (Mrs. Ira Nelson and Ann Chowning), but I have not been able to trace that element down. My personal guess is that there are some mighty mixed up genes in that cross. If a person had the space and time to grow a thousand or more of the seedlings, I believe some very interesting things would be seen.

Speaking of white color, one pot that had all but one as albinos last year was held over, and this fall nearly all of the remaining seeds germinated and they were all green. Regarding the albino problem, I have received several theories as to why, but so far no one has answered the problem to my entire satisfaction. I have crossed STRANGE ROMANCE with a new white and this year not a single albino showed up. In fact, the seeds germinating this year have all been green. As a rule, I have found that the albino seedlings are the first to germinate.

I did make a few crosses with Louisianas, and they have started germinating in one cross (late September). So far, all have been albinos. This time, however, STRANGE ROMANCE was not involved. My original crop of albinos was from a cross of a STRANGE ROMANCE sib X a Chowning seedling that had a double dose of foliosa in its background. About 90% were albinos and

germinated in one month or less after planting in August. The others germinated the following spring and were all green. This year the cross was on the same seedling that has been registered as SHINES BRIGHTLY and was crossed with the best brown that I have seen, VALERA. So far, all that have germinated are albinos. I will be looking forward for the late germination to see if they are also albinos.

I talked with Dr. Nearpass, and he believes that it might have something to do with the factors that allow the early germination. It would take large numbers of crosses to even give an indication as to cause. Surely it has something to do with the genes. Regarding albinos, I believe that was a gene problem and put the blame in my case on my STRANGE ROMANCE. This year, after checking my records for several years, I found that the albino problem in every case went back to SHINES BRIGHTLY (Chowning), which had foliosa in both of its parents. I even selfed SR and did not get any albinos. I checked with a local hybridizer and found that when he used SHINES BRIGHTLY he also got a high percentage of albinos. The ones that germinated the second year have produced very interesting flowers.

Hybridizing

Dorothy Anderson, Columbia, MO: It is time to start thinking about plans for the year. I have given very serious thought to where I should go with my iris garden and hybridizing. So far, I have been rather the hit or miss type of hybridizer and that is interesting; but I think I would rather settle down and seriously learn something from what I am doing. I am a little disturbed about the difficulty of growing some of those beautiful new ones—not all. I realize that they respond very differently to different types of climate. I noticed in one of the last bulletins that someone mentioned JACK R. DEE. Here, I would be willing to recommend it to anyone to grow under less than favorable conditions. If you don't divide it for a few years, it still does well. It was one plant that I could give to someone who just wanted a couple to put in their flower garden. I have found that many of the newer larger flowered varieties really need a lot of room around them and good air circulation, as well as good drainage. My first love was the bigger the better; but now I think I had better look at what will grow and do well in my garden under pretty tight growing conditions. The past couple of years I did a lot of crossing with border bearded and smaller flowered TBs. I think that I will almost exclusively work with them and work also with those that will grow well without being pampered.

Paul Smith, Pleasant Grove, UT: I had very poor germination last year and so tried something a little different this time than I usually do. I potted the seed in October, watered them well, and left them outside for a month in weather where it froze each night. In mid November I brought them in the house, let them thaw, watered them well, and put them in plastic bags and kept them for two months in a walk-in cooler at about 38 degrees. I then brought them home again and put them on my bench under gro-lux lights and they began to germinate within a matter of a few days. Nearly every cross has produced numerous seedlings, and I'm going to be looking for room to line them out. A

good early start nearly insures bloom the following year here.

As I mentioned, I had very poor germination last year and when spring came I put the pots of seeds that hadn't germinated out in one of the rose gardens to see if any more would come. None did all summer, and I quit watering them. When I went to dump out the pots to clean them for the next year's seeds that fall, a cross between THEATRE X DAZZLING GOLD had just started to show. I've had them in the house all winter, and they are about a foot tall. I probably ought to pot them up individually so it won't be such a shock when I put them out in spring.

We have little or no fall bloom here in Utah. On occasion, I've had something, newly planted from California, bloom the year that it was planted, but never any rebloom on established plants. The other day my wife came in and said that an iris was blooming. I had my doubts, but the median BABY BLESSED had put up two bloom stalks.

Rebloomers

B. Charles Jenkins, Salinas, CA: For those interested in rebloomers, I thought I would share a summary on blooming of some of the varieties I grow. I have noticed that as the stock of a variety builds up, the blooming is extended over a longer period. This year we had a warmer than normal summer, and my planting was neglected irrigation wise, and still some varieties bloomed almost constantly. I find that CORN HARVEST, RED POLISH, and SUMMER SUNSHINE have the most bloom. The old variety CRIMSON KING has bloom during every quarter.

Alma Childers, Hamlin, WV: This is not really fall blooming country. Last fall was warm and wet though, and nearly all fall bloomers bloomed. This fall has been warm, but the month of September was dry and just two rebloomed. I don't really call ENGLISH COTTAGE a rebloomer as it bloomed in August but not in the spring. JEAN GUYMER finally put up a stalk, as did PERFUME COUNTER. BABY BLESSED (a median) is a very willing reblooming iris. Mine bloomed both spring and fall while I had it.

Tall Bearded

Jeffrey L. Walters, Hyrum, UT: None of Neva Sexton's introductions that I have has really done well here. I remember reading in the AIS Bulletin that she earned the money to buy her first iris by picking cotton, so I am sure her climate is much different from ours. Schreiners' irises generally perform well here, so probably MOONSTRUCK would be a better choice for this climate than NEW MOON. Whatever caused NEW MOON's lack of success for me seems not to be passed on to its offspring in general. My own seedlings from it and others' introductions tracing back to NEW MOON do well for me, except WHITE LIGHTNING.



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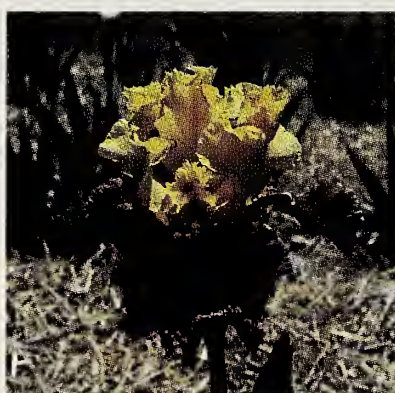
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POINT IN TYME—Sdlg. 1976-11. TB, 36". White standards, white falls trimmed blue. Blue tipped bronze beards. 7 to 9 buds. Great stalks and very vigorous. Fertile both ways. Can be bought separately or will be sent as an extra with Point Made if requested. Blooms early to midseason. Sib to Point Made. **\$25.00**

STERLING MISTRESS—Sdlg. 2384-11. TB, 36". White trimmed pink plicata. The pinkest we've seen. 9-10 buds. Weed like vigor! Wonderful branching. Light harmonious orange beards. Fertile both ways. Mistress X Morning Sunshine. **\$25.00**

STERLING BLAZE—Sdlg. 2421-1. TB, 36", M-L. Dark red self with bronze-gold beards. Slight yellow-gold edge on falls. Wonderful flaring and ruffled form. 7 buds with great branching. Palmer Leader X (Conversation Piece x Fireball). HC '85, '86. **\$25.00**

INDOCTRINATION—Sdlg. 1657-1. TB, 36", M-L. Full yellow standards and bright rose red falls. Bronze tipped yellow beards. 9 buds and vigorous with near perfect branching. It has bloomed in our garden for 29 to 32 days each year for 5 years, even on plants lined out in '86. Wider than normal for this class. Ruffled with some lace. Makes a very pleasing garden display. (Frivolity x Irish Charmer) X Flamenco. **\$25.00**

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These new cultivars have been planted in display beds, beside the new 'upper pond' in our Japanese Garden, for your viewing at the 1988 Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamozoo, July 1-3. Please write us for Convention details, or for our 1988 catalog of over 200 JI cultivars.

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THERE IS HOPE

Dot Hujsak

If nature intended that Pacific Coast Native irises grow in Oklahoma, we certainly would find them on the prairies, woodlands, and along streambeds. Obviously, our conditions are not suited to these plants, but thank goodness, we do have the exquisite *i. cristata*, and now we have hope of growing the Pacific Coast natives. Experts like Lorena Reid suggest that required conditions for growing them should include acid soil, sharp drainage, woodsy conditions, and much moisture fall, winter, and spring. Tulsa is on the border between zones six and seven. Mean temperature is 71 degrees, although the range is 0 to 110. Normal rainfall is 37 inches, although it is not well distributed, and we have intermittent periods of too much or too little. Soil pH in my garden is around 7.3.

The motivation to try Pacific Coast irises in this area comes from a lifelong interest in wild flowers. Some years ago I read in the AIS BULLETIN about the searches made by dedicated irisarians to trace down the wild irises that grow in the states bordering the Pacific Ocean. After seeing these little beauties for the first time while attending a San Jose convention, I was determined to learn more about them and to try to grow them in Tulsa.

My first order of registered varieties was a complete failure. They were shipped in the Fall, survived the winter, and appeared to make a healthy start in the Spring. Invariably, they would all die in the late spring when our heavy rains came. This happened for three successive years with only three survivors out of many planted. These were Chimes, Fairy Chimes, and Susie Knapp. These still live and bloom in my garden but represent a very small percentage survival. I stopped ordering for Fall delivery and tried to find someone who would try Spring shipment. I knew that I would have better luck with plants sent in the Spring, especially before May. For several years, no one could be found who was willing to give it a try. In the meantime, Jean Witt suggested that I work with seeds and seedlings.

I learned about the Species Society seed exchange from her and ordered seeds of all kinds of specie irises, including those of the Pacific Coast Natives. Later, PCN seeds came from Joe Ghio, conventions, Stan Dexter, and my own garden. My experience with seeds started in styrofoam cups of soil has always been good. This holds for annuals, biennials, perennials, and the rooting of African Violet leaves and cuttings. Consequently, the PCN seeds were started this way, but only after experimenting with different ways to germinate the seeds since I was working with something strange to me. I started by putting the seed in plastic medicine bottles of moist Michigan peat and refrigerating them for two to three months. I tried soaking the seeds in water that was changed daily for a week. Other methods were used and all these seeds were put into 6.4-ounce or 8.4-ounce cups of equal parts of good potting soil and Michigan peat. Three or four holes were made in the bottom of each cup before they were placed in a shallow container of water for two to

three days for a good soaking. The bottom of each cup was sheared off, and using a metal bulb planter, the cups were placed very close together in a small area of space in the garden. All cups were in the ground by October 31 except for the seeds from the species exchange which were sent in January. These were treated as above and in the ground as soon as possible. Many times during the winter the ground thaws enough for planting. The cups were covered with ground oak leaves and then hardware cloth to prevent birds and varmints from digging in the cups and removing the labels.

One year the ground was so frozen with ice and snow that I decided to plant the PCN seeds in the cups of soil and keep them in the house. The cups were placed on window sills, after they had the usual soaking, and kept moist. I had far better germination in one and one half to two months than usual. PCN seeds should be started in the very late Fall, early winter, or at least before February so that seedlings can be lined out by May 1 when it usually starts getting hot. When the seedlings are large enough to handle, which is far earlier when started indoors than with other methods mentioned above, each cup is dumped into a plastic quart container of weak Rapid-Gro solution. The seedlings are easy to handle and may be kept in this solution for two days, if necessary.

The seedlings are then lined out in the garden where there is afternoon shade. Each seedling is placed in a hole deep enough to accommodate the roots, which are very long. Rows are separated by rods and labeled and numbered. The seedlings are watered with the remaining contents of the plastic containers immediately after transplanting. In this way, ungerminated seeds in the soil inside the container remain in the row. Every row is labeled with seed name and source. Using this new method, I have found that I get better germination and a better chance of seedling survival.



Susie Knapp



Fairy Chimes

The seedlings should be set out in raised beds if drainage is a problem. Beds framed with boards five to eight inches high work well. They are filled with a mix of sandy loam, compost, Canadian peat, ground oak leaves, and perlite. These beds are covered with hardware cloth for protection from toads (almost impossible), birds, squirrels, and rabbits. When temperatures drop into the low teens, the beds are covered with an opened burlap sack, but I really don't think this is necessary.

Plants are fertilized with 10-20-10 very early in the Spring and after bloom. When my house plants, which are outdoors for the summer, are fertilized with water soluble 20-20-20 or Mir-acid, the PCNs get sprayed also. I know that I should separate and transplant the clumps, but fear of losing the especially beautiful ones has kept me from doing so. I water them when the soil seems to be drying, no matter what the season is.

Jean Erickson and Colin Rigby (Portable Acres) now ship potted plants in the Spring. These have a better survival rate although I have had a few problems with these also. Because of their efforts, we can experience a whole new world of beauty with such superstars as Canyon Snow, Emigrant, Pescadero, Banbury Gnome, and Soquel Cove to name just a few. There are still casualties, but successes are better than with fall shipped plants.

This account does not include the many false starts, the wrong turns, and the tears shed. I will never forget getting quite a number of seedlings from some wonderful batches of seed, giving the remaining seeds to a friend, then having my beautiful seedlings scratched up by some doves who wanted to lie in the beds. No one is likely to find his garden over run with Pacific Coast irises in the middle of the country. On the contrary, with a little neglect or a short trip out of town, one is more likely to find that some plants are no longer there. Sometimes, I believe it is just pure luck or sheer determination that has given me the lovelies that I have. There is hope!



Pacific Coast Seedlings in Hujak Garden in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In the Bud

Oliver Eldridge

In iris literature attention has generally been concentrated on the flower full-blown—and rightly so. Relatively overlooked is the period of growing excitement and heady expectations immediately preceding bloom period. It is then that the observer notes changes transpiring in a matter of hours, and major developments overnight. The iris bed is in the bud.

With arrival of warmth and growing daylight the sword-like fans of fresh green have been rising. As they approach ultimate height there is a slight thickening within some central leaves. Back-lit, with the sun shining through the fresh green, a darker area within can be noted. This is the bud un-born. The effect is like a picture of an un-born fetus projected by the ultra-sound technology of modern medicine.

Not only is the un-born bud swelling, but it is being thrust upward within the leaf by a burgeoning, vigorous stalk. Eventually the edge of the leaf parts, permitting the point of the bud to protrude at first. More follows. Then the bud rises on its stalk well above the height of the fans.

"Anticipation," so the saying goes, "is greater than realization." Undoubtedly for many aspects of life that is true. In iris culture it may not be. Nevertheless, anticipation is a significant part of the fun of growing irises. It is like watching the pile of un-opened packages accumulating under the Christmas tree *before* December 25th. Day-by-day I count the bud-stalks: 8 on May 10th, 47 by the 15th; 103 by the 17th; 198 by the 20th. Then I stop counting because bloom starts on the 21st.

What marvels of alchemy and chemistry are being contrived within these swelling buds! What details of colors, tones, markings, form! Fed by sap welling up the stalk, the magic of the un-opened bud is evolving. Reproductive parts are constructed. Arrangement of petals is determined. Complex processes for opening the future flower are seemingly planned.

At the tip a bud parts to reveal the edges of expanding petals within. When first seen these edges give true indication of coming color *usually*, but not always. With LADY FRIEND it is black as a bud-tip; garnet red in full flower. STARBURST shows dark brown at the bud-tip; orange in full flower. There are other exceptions. Surprise makes life interesting.

Comes the un-opened flower expanding in a slow twirl. There are slender ridges of petals reminiscent of rifling, that will soon be supporting lofty arcs of standards or falls in graceful greeting. The ugly duckling of last season's rhizome is becoming a swan.

It is easy for a backyard amateur to envy the vast fields of the commercial grower when they are pictured as wide drifts of colors on, on into the distance. Wisely, though, he may marvel at the glories and the wonders close at hand.

One Fourth Aril Medians— An Open Field

Walter A. Moores

In the areas of iris hybridizing, perhaps the least explored class is that of the quarter aril median. One has only to check the Official Ballot of the AIS or the results of the voting on that ballot known as the AIS Awards to attest to this fact. No more than ten quarter aril medians have been introduced yearly in the last several years. WHY remains a mystery. These little irises offer exotic colors, are easy to grow, extend the bloom season because they are among the first irises to bloom, and tolerate a variety of climates.

Quarter aril medians are casually mentioned in the 1985 HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND SHOW OFFICIALS, but much more can be said. Quarter aril medians mainly are derived from crossing one-half "tall" arilbreds with standard dwarf bearded irises or fertile intermediate bearded irises. The majority are arilbred X standard dwarf as most intermediates are sterile. Aril medians themselves tend to be sterile as well. Few viable seeds have been obtained by crossing quarter aril by quarter aril.

In selecting parents for quarter aril median crosses, the one-half aril parent should be a vigorous grower and one that doesn't go completely dormant in the summer. The dwarf parent should also be vigorous and display superior branching, such as Joyous Isle, as branching is expected in the off-spring aril median. Some one half arils may not exhibit branching, so the dwarf parent *must* in order to have branching in the seedling.

In dabbing the pollen, one should try to have the aril parent as the "mother" or pod bearing plant. Two reasons exist for this pairing. 1) The aril parent will produce a larger pod and consequently more seeds. 2) Some hybridizers theorize that more aril characteristics are passed on to the progeny if the aril plant is the "mother." If aril pollen is not available and must be obtained through a pollen exchange service, several pods of the dwarf "mother" should be made in order to get a good sampling of seeds from the cross. Either way, germination will be poor, for arilbred seeds tend to spread out their germination over an extended period of years. Also, some of the resultant seeds will have the aril shape and aril collar that distinguish them from other bearded iris seeds. These aril type seeds may produce seedlings with the most aril characteristics, but there is no way of knowing unless they are segregated and grown separately from the others.

Another consideration in selecting proper parents concerns an individual's hybridizing goals. If one wants a signal patch in the progeny, one must use an arilbred with a signal and cross it with a dwarf that has a spot, eg, Onlooker X Baby Toes. Overall dotting, particularly in the falls, can be achieved by crossing Rare Spice X SDB self.

Seedlings saved for further study should display branching, vigor, and ARIL characteristics. A terminal bud (from 15" to 22" from ground level), a spur, and at least one branch positioned well above the narrow foliage are the basic criteria as regards the stalk. The rhizome should resemble an aril rhizome in shape with numerous increases but with more roots than the higher percentage arilbred parent. When the seedlings bloom, a few of them may resemble SDB's or IB's. These should be discarded as aril medians with ARIL characteristics prompted the cross. The blooms should have the signals, dots, or splashes of contrasting color that the aril parent had.

"There is no single proper aril or arilbred form. Some forms are more popular than others, but no variety should be rated unfavorably because its form is unfamiliar."¹ Today, most often one sees the more rounded (oncocyclis) form as in Gadd's Sizzle than in the regelia form as in Nichols' Evening in Bagdad.

The climatic adaptability of quarter aril medians seems as diverse as the hybridizers. Some current hybridizers are Fred Gadd in Connecticut, Hooker Nichols in Oklahoma, Carl Boswell in California, and Walter Moores in Mississippi.

Quarter aril medians offer the exotic aril color without the difficulties in growing higher percentage arilbreds or pure arils. Even the palest green thumb can expect success. Plant one and see!

¹HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND SHOW OFFICIALS, The American Iris Society, 1985, p. B-42.

FROM THE EDITOR

One has no idea how difficult it is to do an AIS Bulletin until he does it himself. All I can say is that I will strive to improve with future issues. I know that is impossible to please everyone since the letters already received are divided in opinions as to what should and should not appear in our publication.

This issue could never have been completed without the work of Marie Caillet. Many of the articles were secured by Marie, typed in the proper form for submission to the printer, and pictures were provided by her.

The work of Kay Nelson was also of immense value. Her preparation of the advertising copy made that section of the Bulletin much easier.

Suggestions made to me during my visits in various regions will be put into future issues of the Bulletin. Keep those ideas coming!

ARILIAN ACRES

4611 Rio Grande Ln., N.W.

Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

TB Introductions of Howard Shockey

PARFAIT DELIGHT (Shockey '88) TB, 35", M. Peaches and apricots with vanilla ice cream, topped by a bright strawberry. Husky stalks with 3 widely spaced branches present this "delicious dessert" of peach standards with creamy white falls edged apricot—beards are bright cerise terminating in white. 7 to 8 blossoms are well formed, sunfast, and long lasting. Vigorous. **\$25.00**

Previous Introductions

Gypsy Skirt	TB '87. Coral pink and maroon-burgundy plicata	\$20.00
High Flight	TB '87. Near white with frosted blue beards	\$20.00
El Morado	TB '86. Husky multi-budded medium purple	\$16.00
Lunar Flounce	TB '84. Non-fading ruffled medium yellow	\$12.00
Shalako	TB '84. Bright yellow and mahogany plicata	\$12.00

See 1988 January Bulletin for Arilbred Listings

Please order by Aug. 1. Aug 1-15 AIRMAIL shipment included.

CHESTER BLAYLOCK

108 S. West End Blvd.

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Introducing for 1988

PARVENU (Blaylock '88) TB, M. A large blue-violet self with broad hafts and sturdy 34" stems, averaging 7 buds. Sdlg. 3-84: (Glory Bound X Full Tilt) **\$25.00**

CERISE GLORY (Blaylock '88) TB, 38". A well branched lavender self with fiery red beards. Up to 10 buds on well branched sturdy stalks. Ruffled and fluted blooms with lacy edges. Prolific increaser. Sib to Gee Golly. Sdlg. 1-82: (Glory Bound X Full Tilt) **\$25.00**

SWEET CHARITY (Blaylock '88) TB, 33", M-L. Apricot orange self with orange beards, flaring falls, good substance, 7 buds. Sdlg. 15-81: (Peach Frost X Village Squire). **\$25.00**

All three of the above for \$50.00

Previous Introductions

GEE GOLLY—TB '86. A well branched lacy orchid **\$17.50**

PAMPER PINK—TB '86. Pale pink self **\$15.00**
Both Gee Golly and Pamper Pink for \$25.00

PACE CAR—TB '85. A 37" violet-pink self **\$12.50**

PINK LAMB—BB '85. Light pink self, 26", HM '87 **\$10.00**
Both Pace Car and Pink Lamb for \$17.50

Order from this ad. Add \$2.50 for postage and handling. Send self-addressed long envelope with 39¢ stamp attached for 1988 price list.

BOSWELL IRIS GARDEN

Carl and LaRue

1821 Gross Lane

Concord, CA 94519

Carl Boswell 1988 Introductions

TAN-A-MAROON—MDB, 7", E. Light golden tan standards with light maroon base; maroon brown falls blending to tan at edge; yellow beards. Good pollen and pod parent for bicolors and spots. Sdlg. #12-80-2M: Tanny X (Gingerbread Man x I. balkana). Sib to Balkana Baby **\$12.50**

DOUBLE BANDED—BB, 23", M-L. You can see this bright flower from across the garden. Light yellow standards with darker midrib and veining. Medium yellow one-third down falls, then inner band of cream with outer band of yellow. White beards tipped yellow. Sdlg. #84-80-3B: Pagan Butterfly X (Prosperity x Under Gleam). Sib to Banded Butterfly. **\$20.00**

We are proud that Adamgrove, Route 1, Box 246, California, MO 65018, is co-introducing our introductions.

Send stamp for list of previous introductions. Dwarf and Median irises. From Jim Whitely, Arils and Arilbreds. Shipping mid-July to mid-August. Make checks payable to Carl Boswell. Please include \$2.50 for postage. **GENEROUS EXTRAS.**

BURCH IRIS GARDEN

P.O. Box 10003

717 Pratt Avenue, NE, Huntsville, Alabama 35801

No Introductions this year

Previous Introductions

AZTEC AFFLUENCE (83) Yellow ground, reddish-brown plicata. HC '82 **\$3.00**
BALLAD OF DIXIE (83) Pale yellow self. HC '83 **\$2.50**
BAMA BERRY (84) White ground, dark pink plicata. HM '86 **\$6.00**
BLUE TEMPEST (79) S. light blue, F. violet. HM '82 **\$2.50**
ELIZABETH CAROL (86) Red black self. HC '83 **\$8.00**
FROSTY JEWELS (79) Leathery light pink self. HM '81, AM '83 **\$2.50**
JEWEL STARLIGHT (80) Yellow and white. HM '82 **\$2.50**
KIRSCH BB (84) Reddish-purple, overlaid black. HM '86 **\$4.00**
MISS NELLIE BB (83) S. yellow F. blend of yellow, red, and purple.
 HM '85, AM '87 **\$3.00**
OCEAN SWELLS (86) Pale blue self, will fade to white in extreme heat **\$7.50**
OPTIMIST (83) Light yellow self **\$2.50**
PATRICIAN ELEGANCE (84) Buff orange and white. HC '83 **\$2.50**
ROMAN LOVER (82) Velvety red violet bitone. HM '84 **\$2.50**
SOUTHLAND GRAPE (78) Violet with bronze beard. HM '80, AM '82 .. **\$2.50**
WHITE TOKEN (81) White self with gold beard **\$2.50**
WONDERSTRUCK (81) Pale violet self, gold hafts **\$2.50**

Please include \$4.00 to partially cover the expenses of packing and shipping.

Order from this ad—no catalog

ELEGANT HAND-PAINTED SWEATSHIRTS

\$26⁰⁰

	White		Pink		Mint
S	M	L	XL		XXL(white only)
	Iris		Rose		Sweet Pea

Machine washable. Money back guarantee. VISA, MC, checks, money order. WA state residents add 8.1% sales tax. Add \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

AURA

Dept "G", 501 N. 36th St., Suite 140
Seattle, WA 98103 (206) 784-1150

BUMBLE BEE GARDENS

801 Logan Street
WAYNE, NE 68787

Order from this ad—1988 Introductions

DRESDEN DELIGHT (Hummel) TB M 32". Dresden yellow self with lemon yellow beards. Averages 6 buds. Perfect show stalk most years with excellent substance. Carrara Marble X Gypsy Caravan. **\$25.00**

JOYOUS CADENCE (Hummel) TB M-L 29". Stands primrose yellow with near white falls edged primrose marked with canary yellow haft. Indian yellow beard. Averages six buds. Mystic Vision X Blanc de Chine. **\$25.00**

1987 INTRODUCTIONS

TIDE MARK (Hummel) E-M 30" (Spring Bride X Guardian Gate) Delicate amethyst violet plicata on white ground with shrimp red beard. Excellent branch placement, consistent performer, 7-8 buds. HC 1986. Sdlg JH-80-8G.

TASSELLENA (Hummel) E-M 32" (Sun Fire X Formosa Spring) Stands Chinese yellow flushed orange at midrib. Falls amber yellow blending to lighter shade and accented by fat nasturtium red beard. Consistent in bloom, increase, and flower placement. 7 buds. Sdlg JH-79-32L.

VERACITY (Hummel) M-L 31" (Sleeping Beauty X Summer Dawn) X Tangerine Sunset. Clear, clean cadmium orange self with Indian orange beard. Color holds well. Beauty in the simplicity of the flower form. 6-7 buds. Sdlg JH-78-22B.

SUMMER HAZE (Hummel) E-M 36" (Irene Neece X Marquesian Skies) X Metropolitan. Greyed Tuscan yellow stands with aster violet falls rimmed pink, yellow beard. Hardy, excellent increase, consistent performance. Virginia gardener reports "finest in our garden this season." Sdlg JH-79-10A.

\$20.00 EACH PLANT OR ALL 1987 INTROS FOR \$50.00.

Write: Vera and Jim Hummel at 801 Logan, Wayne, NE 68787 for complete price list.

INTRODUCTIONS from DAVE NISWONGER

ARIZONA CONVENTION (Niswonger '88) Sdlg. SP 21-78: Camelton X Cinnamon Roll. Spuria, 40" (102 cm), midseason. Spurias managed to be in bloom for the Arizona AIS Convention and among them was this yellow self. It happened to be one that has gone through many freezes and still blooms. So, for the northern spuria growers, this one should be a good one to grow. HC 1987. **\$20.00**

BLUEBIRD IN FLIGHT (Niswonger '88) IB 8-83: Marmalade Skies X Inscription. IB, 24" (61 cm), mid. It has pollen and has set seeds. This is what I call a patriotic iris. It's red, white and blue. The stds. are white, the falls are blue, and the beards are bright red. The stds. are slightly open but hold well, and the falls are nice and round. A very showy iris for this class. **\$20.00**

CASPER'S SHADOW (Niswonger '88) SDB 4-87: Silver Rain X unknown. SDB, 12" (30 cm), E-M. Fertile both ways. This is an exotic color, hard to describe. You could say it is delightfully weird. Hence, the name being associated with ghosts. For a stab at the color, I would say that the stds. are somewhere around blue-grey, and the falls are a chartreuse blending to burgundy at the center. A nice part of this blended color is the silvery blue color of the beards. This is something different for your median bed. **\$15.00**

CHOCOLATE FUDGE (Niswonger '88) Sp 1-77: (Walker Ferguson dark sdlg. X Crow Wing. Spuria, 42" (107 cm), early and fertile. This is a sib to Missouri Blue, but nothing like it in color. It's deep brown with a near orange area on the falls. It stands out and attracts attention from across the garden. Its vigor and cold resistance make it a good prospect for the northern climes. ... **\$20.00**

FROSTED SAPPHIRE (Niswonger '88) Sdlg. 35-83: Lilac Lass X Rudolph 79-05. TB, 32" (81 cm), mid and fertile both ways. In the quest for a pink with a blue beard, this very attractive seedling appeared. It's a pale lilac with a hint of pink, sporting solid pale blue beards. if you're working with blue beards, this should be an interesting parent. **\$30.00**

RUBY LOCKET (Niswonger '88) SDB 7-87: Bloodstone X unknown. SDB, 15" (38 cm), mid, fertile both ways.. For some time, I have been interested in the reds and sister colors in the standard dwarf group as evidenced by Raspberry Jam, Little Annie, Little Black Belt, etc. Here is a near red with a deeper maroon area extending two-thirds of the way down the falls which I think you will find a little different in this class. The blue beards seem to emphasize the redness. **\$15.00**

SPICE MARKET (Palmer-Niswonger '88) Sdlg. 573C: Autumn Tapestry X Conversation Piece. TB, 30" (76 cm), M-L. Dorothy Palmer never got quite enough stock to introduce this one. She had given me some stock to grow for her, but her health failed before she could introduce it. So, this is for Dorothy. It's honey brown in color with brownish yellow beards, and the usual ruffles and quality which are Dorothy's trademark. It has a certain glow about it that gives it something special. **\$30.00**

Enclose \$2.50 for shipping

Catalog on request

CAPE IRIS GARDENS

822 Rodney Vista Blvd.

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

1988 Introductions

GLOWING GEM—Sdlg. 78-60B. TB, 40", EM. Stds. white ground stitched faint violet. Falls white ground with scattered faint violet plicata markings; violet beards turning yellow in throat. Earthly Prize X Peek A Blue. **\$25.00**

EXALTATION—Sdlg. 81-38. TB, 37", M. Light orange self; reddish beards. Joyful News x Entourage. HC 1986. **\$25.00**

LOVER'S DREAM—Sdlg. 78-89. TB, 32", M. Lightly laced pink self; reddish tangerine beards. Best Pink and Best Early Blooming Variety, Florence, Italy 1985. **\$25.00**

COMMANDER IN CHIEF—Sdlg. 81-42RA. TB, 42", M. Stds. light yellow. Falls white with light yellow on shoulders and lower edge; yellow beards. Vanity X Pontiff. **\$25.00**

LOVING THOUGHTS—Sdlg. 81-55-A. TB, 40", M. Light orange, yellowish orange on shoulders of falls; red tangerine beards. Joyful News X 75-87-B: (Chenie x Princess). **\$25.00**

ROYAL BLESSING—Sdlg. 81-27-A. TB, 34", EM. Lightly laced light pink; reddish tangerine beards. Vanity X Entourage. **\$25.00**

ASTEROID—Sdlg. 77-20F. TB, 39", ML. Ruffled white ground with golden yellow striations, wide band of golden yellow around falls; yellowish beards with orange overtone. Bride's Halo X Queen's Jubilee. **\$25.00**

CHRISTINE BRETT—Sdlg. 78-33C. TB, 36", M. Pink infused with very pale violet tones; pinkish red beards. Vanity X Jersey Maid. **\$25.00**

ROYAL BALLERINA—Sdlg. 72-27. TB, 33", M. Stds. white with blue violet infusion in throat. Falls white and horizontal; yellow beards tipped white. Cup Race X Debby Rairdon. **\$25.00**

Add \$2.50 for postage and handling

FRANKLIN E. CARR

27 Mary Street

Bordentown, New Jersey 08505

—D & J IRIS GARDENS—

1373 Coventry Road
Concord, CA 94518
(415) 685-6489

1988 INTRODUCTIONS

BE MY LOVE (J. Meek '88) TB, 35", E-M. #86-1-1. **\$25.00**

The standards are greyish tan, lightly flushed maroon at the midrib. The falls are deep wine, and the beards are orange. The entire flower is ruffled with pleating at the sides of the falls. Three branches and terminal hold 8 to 10 buds. P. T. Barnum X Brandy. A sib to Makin' Music.

COLD COLD HEART (D. MEEK '88) TB, 36", E-M. #147-7-2. . . . **\$25.00**

Closed standards are white with a hint of pink on lower edge near the coral beards. The falls are white with a hint of pink near the hafts. All edges are picoteed and ruffled. Three well placed branches and terminal, with 8 to 10 buds. Sue Ellen X Highness.

DESERT WINE. (D. Meek '88) TB, 34", E-M. #331-1-1. **\$25.00**

The standards are apricot; the style arms a darker apricot tan. The falls have a white ground with an inch wide heavy plicata border of red-lavender and lines of the same color running in a ray pattern from the beards. The beards are lavender tipped mustard. The whole flower is lightly ruffled with three nicely placed branches and terminal holding 7 to 9 buds. Ensemble X Premonition.

FORTY PINOCHLE (D. Meek '88) TB, 37", E-M. #175-1-9. **\$25.00**

The standards are a bright golden yellow. The falls are red-brown with a minute tan gold border. The beards are mustard. The blooms are lightly ruffled. Three to four branches and terminal hold 8 to 10 buds. Danger Hour sib X World News.

LITTLE BROWN JUG (D. Meek '88) AB, 10", E. #48-1-9. **\$10.00**

The slightly open standards are sort of a muted mustard. The recurved falls are tan-brown. Gold beards. Very good form and color with 2 to 3 buds. (Grace Note x Wilma V) X Kasbah Queen.

PEACH BRANDY (D. Meek '88) TB, 35", M-L. #272-1-0. **\$25.00**

The entire flower is a soft coral, shaded peach with deeper self beards. All petal edges are slightly picoteed. The falls are wide, and the form is elegant and very ruffled. Three branches and terminal hold 7 to 8 buds. China Dragon X Brandy.

TERMS: You can order from this ad. Prices are net, but we are very generous with extras and give at least 100% in bonus irises. Please add \$2.00 for shipping. We ship UPS wherever possible. California residents, add appropriate sales tax. Shipping mid-July to mid-August unless otherwise requested.

LOOK FOR OTHER MEEK INTRODUCTIONS LISTED IN THE RORIS GARDENS AD. SEE CENTERFOLD OF THIS BULLETIN

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

October 15 – November 10, 1988

Visit
AUSTRALIAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION
with Region 14 RVP, Jean Erickson

This CUSTOM tour will begin in Brisbane where we will visit the Australian EXPO '88, private and public gardens, Lamington National Park to see the unusual flora and fauna of the country. We will visit Sydney, see the Fairy penguins at Phillip's Island, and the scenic Grampians National Park.

In NEW ZEALAND we will tour Christchurch, visit public and private gardens, the Southern Alps and Milford Sound, and cruise Lake Wakatipu at Queenstown. At Wellington we will ride the famed "Silver Fern" railcar to Auckland.



For the itinerary of this escorted tour, contact:

Barbara Hopper—GEOSTAR TRAVEL SERVICE

6050 Commerce Blvd. Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 584-9552. In California (800) 624-6633

ALBERT C. FAGGARD

Grower, Hybridizer and Distributor of Fine Daylilies and Louisiana Irises

3840 LeBleu Street Phone No. 409-835-4322 Beaumont, TX 77707

LOUISIANA IRIS

1988 INTRODUCTIONS OF MARVIN GRANGER

KAY NELSON—(Granger R-86) (Sldg. 80-11) 32", Mid-season, 5" to 6" blooms. Great solid, ruffled grape lavender that is classically ruffled. Wide rounded 2½" petals carry a rounded yellow crest. Standards are also rounded, 1¾" wide both have a fine light edging that's pinked or serrated. This is a charming beauty, with lavender styles, and three to four bud positions. Named for the lovely Registrar of AIS **\$25.00**

1988 INTRODUCTIONS OF ALBERT C. FAGGARD

BAYOU SHORT STUFF—(Faggard R-86) (Sldg. FBL-3-83) 23", Mid-season, 4¼", small low dark blue self with a slight sweet fragrance. It has wide, thick substantanced 1½" falls with a golden yellow crest, 1" wide standards, and dark narrow blue styles. Parentage is unknown. Truly a real cocky cutie, and certainly a nice start in the lower, smaller border Louisianas **\$25.00**

BLUSHING YELLOW FEATHER—(Faggard R-86) (Sldg. FYE-7-85) 37", Mid-season, 5½", flat to flaring, rully rounded light yellow that fades to cream, with cream style arms, and a large rounded gold crest. It is tall, stately, and has sturdy plant habits. its 2¾" falls open yellow, then blush and roll down somewhat, whereas the standards lay flat and are 1¾" wide. Breeding is unknown. Like the Karankaw Indians who were tall, strong, and light in color, perhaps never blushing though **\$25.00**

Catalog on Request \$1.00—Includes Quality Daylilies and only Louisiana Irises (MSD Winners, My Introductions and Other Top Varieties). Collector Tetraploid Daylilies, Outstanding Double Daylilies and Numerous Small Flowers.

GENE GADDIE INTRODUCTIONS

No seedlings ready for 1988. Extras will probably be other irises in this ad, depending on availability when your order is received. Attach 'want list' in order of preference. For descriptions, see previous Bulletins: April '87, p. 77; April '86, p. 83; April '85, p. 78; April '84, p. 81. Add \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Minimum order \$10.00. Please order from this ad.

TBs:	Tamarisk '87	\$18.50	SDBs:	Razzle Dazzle '86	\$5.00
	Heaven's Shore '86 . . .	12.00		Blue Nymph '85	3.50
	Rhythm On Ice '85	6.50		Royal Trim '85	NA
	Bronze Sculpture '84 HM			Royal Sparks '84 HM . .	2.75
	6.00		Happy Easter '84 HM . .	2.50
BB:	Buckskin Finale '85 HM	5.00		Ruffled Revel '84	2.25
IBs:	From The Heart '85 HM	4.00		Can't Stop '84	1.50
	Little Snow Lemon '84		MDBs:	Almond Joy '87	7.00
	Top HM in '86	3.00		Burgundy Blues '85	
SPU:	Sunset Etching '85 HM .	9.00		Top HM In '87	4.00

GADDIES' GARDENS

601 Eighth Street
Stanton, NE 68779

To phone Gene
at nearby Norfolk:
(402) 371-5687

Hall's New Introductions

PINK ATTRACTION (Earl E. Hall '88) Sdlg. 81-114-IN. TB, 30", EM & RE (Aug.-Oct. in Ohio). Very nice form. Ruffled light pink (RHS 36C) with a very light streak of violet (84C) below the orange beards. Also, a light spot at tip of beards. Semi-flaring falls, 5 to 7 buds, 2 to 3 branches plus spur and terminal. Jean Guymer X Vanity. Good grower and fertile both ways. EC '86 . . **\$25.00**

VIOLET RETURNS (Earl E. Hall '88). Sdlg. 80-69-A. TB, 30", EM & RE (Aug.-Sept.). Violet of average to good form, but a very strong early dependable rebloomer in Ohio and colder climates. S. violet (RHS 88B/C); F. violet (87A). Some white haft veining; yellow beards tipped white. Standards are closed, falls semi-flaring, 7 buds, 3 branches plus spur and terminal. Sib to Queen Dorothy. Perfume Counter X Re-Treat. Good grower and fertile both ways **\$25.00**

WELCH'S REWARD (W. Welch by E. Hall '88). Sdlg. W-3-76. MTB, 22", M. S. yellow (RHS 8A); F. red-purple (59A) with 1/8" yellow (8B) margin. White hafts with bright red-purple veining going down falls which makes the flower stand out. (Welch T-306 x Pale Amoena) X Welch T- 301. Very vigorous grower and fertile both ways **\$12.50**

*Free Price List ** Add \$2.00 for Postage and Handling.*

HALL'S FLOWER GARDEN

1495 Enterprise Road

West Alexandria, OH 45381

HAMNER'S IRIS GARDEN

960 North Perris Blvd.

Perris, CA 92370

INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1988

BERRY BLUSH—TB, 32-34", M. Lovely pastel pink self with good branching, 7 buds and red beards. Vigorous growth habits; lovely ruffled form. Sdlg. 82-10: Persian Berry X Heather Blush. **\$25.00**

BLUE GLOSS TB, 34-35", M. A subtle bitone of gentian violet. Standards are domed and have a touch of rose. Falls are whirling ruffles with shades of violet as the sun plays on the petals. Self beards are tipped blue. Good branching with buds. Lustrous gloss adds the final touch. Sdlg. 83-75A: Royal Kingdom X Princess Gloria. **\$25.00**

INLAND PRINCESS—TB, 37", M. Domed standards are spanish orange. White falls are heavily bordered spanish orange with red-orange beards. This beauty is extremely lacy and has good branching with 7 buds. Sdlg. 84-121: Blushing Diana X Arctic Blond. **\$30.00**

MACHO HOMBRE—TB, 36", E-M. Large, wide, ruffled orange red (RHS 34C) self. Excellent three-way branching with 7 buds, bright red beards, and vigorous growth that increases fast. Sdlg. 84-5: Chief Redskin X Lady Friend. **\$35.00**

PURPLE PIROUETTE—TB, 37", M. Ruffled dark purple self with smooth wide petals. White beards are heavily tipped purple. Erect conical or touching standards. Near perfect branching with 7 buds, strong healthy foliage and rapid increase. Sdlg. 83-301: (Princess Gloria x Navy Strut) X (((Liberty Royal x (Touche x Latin Lover)) x Princess Gloria). **\$35.00**

SNOW SUMMIT—TB, 33-34", M-L. Lovely yellow amoena. Pure white domed standards. Lightly ruffled yellow falls edged white. Yellow-orange beards tipped white. Excellent branching, 7 buds. Sdlg. 79-319: Misty Moonscape X amoena sdlg. **\$30.00**

FLAMENCO WHIRL—TB, 30-32", M. Bicolor plicata with strong, wide, upright golden standards. Wide, horizontal red falls banded gold. Gold beards, good branching, 7 buds. Lovely ruffled form. Sdlg. 84-57: Wild Jasmine X Flamen-co. **\$30.00**

—Price List Sent On Request—

MINIATURE TALLS FROM OHIO GARDENS

Featuring Miniature Tall Bearded Iris introductions of **Mary Louise Dunderman** and **W. Terry Varner**.

1988 Introductions

JOLLY JIM (Dunderman) 23", M. Dainty white self with deep orange beards. Closed standards, flaring falls. Floriferous. Slight fragrance. **\$12.50**

LADY OF MARIETTA (Varner) 20", M. Closed aureolin yellow standards; flaring white falls, edged as standards. Yellow beards. 7 blooms. **\$12.50**

Send stamp for list describing these and previous introductions as well as other available miniature tall.

Please include \$2.00 for postage with orders.

OHIO GARDENS

102 Laramie Road

Marietta, OH 45750



D. Steve Varner — Illini Iris

PHONE 217 762-3446

Breeder of Hems, Peonies, Bearded and Siberian Irises

Rt. 3, Box 5, Monticello, Illinois 61856

New for 1988

GOLDEN TEARS—BB, #V2063: (V447: Dixieland x Miss Illini sdlg.) X Marmalade Skies. EM, 26". Very floriferous 4" bright deep yellow self with light orange yellow beards. Average of 3 branches and 7 blooms. **\$25.00**

ILLINI DAME—SIB TET, #5106, Dance Ballerina Dance sib, 34", M-ML. Sturdy stalks bear 2 branches and 4 bitone blooms. Falls are medium rose lavender (no signals) and standards are barely lighter than the wide, furl-ruffled falls. Ice pink styles with very light aqua lavender midribs. Fertile pod and pollen parent. **\$60.00**

PRECIOUS DOLL—SIB, #4165: Illini Charm X involved Sea Shadows, Cambridge, Dreaming Spires sdlg.), M, 12" to 14". Without a doubt, this charmer exudes harmony of colors, proportion and form in a size not available before. Small graceful plants. Four 2" flowers in nearly flat form, wide and round have deep lavender standards, lilac falls with cream white signals and chartreuse green shafts. Ice styles have aqua midribs. Limited stock. **\$75.00**

PRECIOUS ILLINI—SIB, #5080: Waterloo X (Ann Dasch x Steve Varner), EM-M, 31". Slight musk fragrance. This charming, truly beautiful dappled light blue, with no signals, has falls with wide edges of darker blue and aqua-ice styles in a nearly flat form. Wide and durable. Four 3" blooms with good proportion on graceful stalks with 2 branches complete an outstanding clump effect. Fertile both ways. **\$60.00**

ILLINI DESTINY—TET HEM #V8603: Rose Festival X Pink Tangerine, 30", M-MLa dor diu. This very floriferous beige flesh blend with light purplish red halo has many scapes with an average of 30 buds on low-medium, multiple, wide branching. Symmetrical, full, wide spread form. Best of all, it is an outstanding parent in many colors for form and ruffles and is giving many fine bicolors. **\$100.00**

We invite you to share the beauty of our flowers. Normal iris peak bloom is May 18 to 25, with lilac and peony seasons overlapping, and hem peak July 10 to 15. We can be reached via Interstates 47, 72 and 74.

TERMS: Cash, minimum mail order \$10. Prices NET. Add \$3 to help with shipping. Foreign customers pay actual air mail and phytosanitary certificate costs. Shipments made in order received. Bearded iris starting July 6 and Siberians and hems Sept. 6, unless special dates are arranged. Order from this ad or send \$1 for our 1988 garden list.

GARDEN of the EAST WIND

Mel and Lynn Bausch

11530 N. Laguna Drive

Mequon, WI 53092

PLUM TOPPING—'88. SDB, 14", M. Ruffled plum standards; pale yellow styles with red-violet rib and tip. Full red-violet ruffled falls, darker red-violet around red-violet, tipped bronze beards. Slight fragrance. (Dark Spark x Bloodspot) X Wild Ruby. EC 1986. **\$12.50**

SECOND OPINION—'88. MTB, 24", M. Tailored pale lavender standards; lavender styles. Dark red-violet falls edged pale lavender. Yellow beards tipped red-violet with lavender whiskers down sides of falls. No fragrance. Carolyn Rose X Consummation. HC 1982. **\$15.00**

Please include \$1.50 for shipping.

JOE PYE WEED'S GARDEN

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks

45 Elm Street

Bedford, MA 01730

1988 INTRODUCTIONS:

SPRINGS BROOK—Warburton, Schafer/Sacks, SIB, 40", M-L and RE. Named for a popular recreational landmark that also waters our seedling beds, Springs Brook sports large attractive flowers whose standards and styles are pearly blue-violet and whose dark blue-violet shoulders blend into the falls. The bloomstalks are tall and sturdy with terminal and two well placed branches carrying 7 buds. Repeat blooming consistently. It flowers through the Siberian season and into the Japanese. (Atoll X Ruffled Velvet) X George Henry. **\$30.00**

PARTY LINE—Warburton, VERSICOLOR, 18", E-L. A superb garden versicolor! Each bloomstalk is held in the center of the clump. The standards and falls are smooth red-violet with darker veining. The styles are pure white with a narrow line of red-violet at the midrib. The signal is pale yellow changing to white with dark red-purple veining. **\$25.00**

PINK PEAKS—Schafer/Sacks, VERSICOLOR, 9", M. Charming dwarf versicolor. Dark pink falls and standards with a distinct notch or "peak" on each standard. The styles match the rest except for pure white curls on each tip. White signal veined pink. Lovely flaring falls. **\$20.00**

Previous Warburton Introductions:

SWEET CORN ('87) SDB. Cream and yellow amoena with cream rim **\$12.00**

LILAC LULU ('86) SDB. Light rosy-violet luminata, white beard **\$ 9.00**

VIOLET LULU ('86) SDB. Pure violet-blue luminata, white beard **\$ 9.00**

MAD MAGENTA ('87) SIB. Wide and ruffled magenta self, no signal .. **\$25.00**

REPRISE ('87) SIB. Violet with darker veining, strong repeat **\$20.00**

SKY MIRROR ('87) SIB. Blue violet with green signal **\$15.00**

WHITE TRIANGLES ('87) SIB. Dramatic large white self **\$20.00**

BELLISSIMA ('86) SIB. Heavily ruffled white with green flush **\$18.00**

PURPLE PROSE ('86) SIB. Floriferous wide, ruffled purple self **\$18.00**

Prices include postage

Send for complete list and descriptions

JOHNSON'S IRIS GARDEN

3205 Shackelford Road

Florissant, MO 63031

1988 Introductions from Dale Johnson

- CATHY CHILDERTON**—Sdlg. S-42. SIB (diploid) 29", M. S. gentian blue (RHS 94D); F. bluebird blue (94B); light blue (97C) styles. Silver Illusion X blue sdlg. **\$25.00**
- IT'S DELIGHTFUL**—Sdlg. S-102. SIB (diploid) 36", M. S. wistaria blue (92C); F. same. Bluebird blue (94B) styles. Cathy Childerton X Silver Illusion. ... **\$25.00**
- QUEEN'S GAMBIT**—Sdlg. S-22. SIB (diploid) 24", M. Imperial purple (78A); blue signal washed violet. Bishop's Pawn X Ready to Go. **\$25.00**
- REDDY TO GO**—Sdlg. SR-385. SIB (diploid) 24", L. S. deep violet-purple (78A); F. same, washed violet-purple (93B); imperial purple styles. **\$25.00**
- SNOWY MOUNTAIN**—Sdlg. S-212. SIB (diploid) 24", M. White with sulphur yellow signal and citron green line on F. Silver Illusion X self. **\$25.00**
- STANDING TALL**—Sdlg. S-122. SIB (diploid) 36", M. Violet (88B) self, blue signal veined white; violet styles. Silver Illusion X Cathy Childerton. **\$25.00**
- TRI-BLUE**—Sdlg. S-92. SIB (Diploid) 28", M. S. gentian blue (94D); F. same with darker (96D) overlay; blue (97D) styles. Cathy Childerton X It's Delightful. **\$25.00**
- BLUE EYED LADY**—Sdlg. N-183. TB, 35", M. S. white edged aureolin yellow (12A); F. white with methyl violet sheen, shoulders veined almond shell (165B); yellow beards tipped methyl violet. Ad Astra X Quietude. **\$25.00**
- BUTTER BREAD**—Sdlg. J-183. TB, 36", M. S. barium yellow (10B); F. white edged barium yellow (10C); yellow beards. Dream Affair X Banana Sundae. . . **\$25.00**
- COUNTRY SWEETHEART**—Sdlg. V-183. TB, 40", M-L. S. gentian blue (94D); F. bluebird blue (94B); white beards, yellow in throat. Quietude X Mary Frances. **\$25.00**
- HONEY DELIGHT**—Sdlg. U-183. TB, 36", M. S. bronze yellow (163C/D); F. bronze yellow (163B); cadmium orange beards. Debby Rairdon X Ad Astra. **\$25.00**
- ICE 'N LEMON**—Sdlg. I-183. TB, 32", M. S. white edged primrose yellow (4B); F. white with yellow shoulders and edge; white beards, primrose yellow (4A) in throat. Lemon fragrance. Debby Rairdon X Ad Astra. **\$25.00**
- SPACIOUS SKY**—Sdlg. K-183. TB, 40", E. Blue (96D) veined darker on F. Blue beards tipped buttercup yellow (15A). Quietude X Surf's Up. EC '87. . . **\$25.00**
- STORMY**—Sdlg. M-183. TB, 33", E-M. S. violet-blue (90B); F. pansy violet (83B). violet-blue beards. Fifty Fathoms X Victoria Falls. **\$25.00**
- STRAWBERRIES 'N CREAM**—Sdlg. F-183. TB, 33", E & RE. S. white ground with amethyst violet (84B) overlay; F. cream, edged and stitched beetroot (71B); buttercup yellow beards. Cathedral Windows X Rondo. **\$25.00**
- SILVER ILLUSION**—SIB '87. Ruffled bicolor. See April '87 Bulletin, p. 78. **\$50.00**
- BISHOP'S PAWN**—SIB '87. Bishop's violet, gold signal. See April '87 ad. **\$25.00**

Please add \$3.00 shipping. All foreign orders add \$10.00

ALICE and DALE JOHNSON

Phone: (314) 921-3783

Small and Tall Irises from Evelyn and Bennett C. Jones

5635 S.W. Boundary Street
Portland, Oregon 97221



1988 Introductions

ORANGE TIGER (B. Jones) SDB,, 10". Medium orange standards are upright and just touching at their tips. Deep orange falls are wide, very smooth and flaring. Prominent deep red-orange beards provide the boldness for the name. No paper tiger this one, he will win you over on first sight. Slender foliage, 3-4 buds, weatherproof flowers. Sdlg. 379-1: Hooligan X M309: (Solar Flight x M255: (Melon Honey x sdlg. from Earl Roberts 65R11)). **\$10.00**

STAR DANCER (B. Jones) SDB, 10". From the breeding for blue-bearded white irises comes this medium blue self of superior color and form. Standards are domed and tightly closed. Falls flare to near horizontal, lightly waved. Elegant flowers, the deep steel blue beards add so much to the lovely color. Sib to Blue Line. **\$10.00**

And

Co-introducing with Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens (see their ad in the January '88 Bulletin) our reblooming tall bearded . . .

ORANGE HARVEST (B. Jones) Aptly named, we think, for its flowers are the full orange color of the tree ripened fruit and in the Aitken's garden and in ours it has been a sure fire harvest time bloomer for the past three years. Smooth bright medium orange flowers are very well formed. Deep red beards add class. Six to seven buds on well branched stalks. 32". Sdlg. #74-34-5: Orange Chiffon X 69-24-5: (((Spanish Gift x Marilyn C) x Shoop 63-18) x ((Spanish Affair x Marilyn C) x Hamblen H5- 35)). **\$30.00**

Previous Introductions

BLUE LINE—SDB '87. Pure white self with deep blue beards. Sharp contrast, best of this color combination. **\$5.00**

PALE STAR—SDB '86. pale ice blue self, beautiful form. . . . **\$5.00**

SUN DOLL—SDB '86. Sparkling sunny yellow of superb form, season of bloom. Don't miss this one. **\$5.00**

Logo by George Shoop

No list, order from this ad. Add \$2.00 for postage and packing.

Colorado Creations

ALL REDDY (John Durrance) TB 35" M. Sdlg. 86-30. Flaring and lightly ruffled red rose self. 7 buds. Mulled Wine X Palmer Leader. **\$25.00**

ARIZONA HOLIDAY (John Durrance) TB 36". Sdlg. 86-37. This blend mixes yellow, tan, and purple. Ruffled with flaring falls. 7 buds. Mulled Wine X Palmer Leader. **\$25.00**

ARTESIAN LADY (Ray Lyons) BB 25" EM. Sdlg. LY80-17-1. An attractive bronze green border with wine overlay on flaring falls. Nicely ruffled and picoteed with rich bronze beards. Royal Trumpeter X LY78-16-1: (Laced Petticoats x Royal Trumpeter). EC 1984, EC 1987, HC 1987. **\$20.00**

BLUSHING LADY (Ray Lyons) TB 38". Sdlg. LY80-5-G. A vigorous, beautifully formed, ruffled and finely laced pink self. Coral pink beards. Slight sweet fragrance. LY78-10-2: (Laced Petticoats x Pink Sleigh) X Lynn with Love. EC 1985, HC 1987. **\$30.00**

BUENOS AIRES (John Durrance) TB 35" M. Sdlg. 82-7. A variegata with laced golden edge margins on falls. 7 buds World News X Sexton 23-73. This is a "bonus iris" with purchase of any other 1988 Durrance introduction.

DEWY MORN (Ray Lyons) TB 29" ML. Sdlg. LY79-1-4. A pale lemon self with domed, ruffled & fringed standards and flaring & ruffled falls. Wide and round falls are rimmed with darker yellow. Styles are darker yellow and beards are rich gold. Irish Spring X Bride's Halo. **\$25.00**

HANKY (Tom Magee) SDB 12" M. Natural linen fabric. Upright strong midrib crinkled standards with light violet plic embroidery. Wide horizontal flaring falls with lighter violet plic embroidery. Beards natural linen to orange needlework at throat. Sea Change X Nazette. **\$15.00**

KATHARINE ANNE (Joe Hoage) TB 34" ML. Sdlg. H79-52C. Named for Katharine Anne Ommanney Vincent, actress, author and drama teacher at North Denver High School for a quarter of a century. Pristine white self with red beards. Closed standards, flaring falls, ruffled. Christmas Rubies X Lady Marie. **\$30.00**

LOIS RAINER (John Durrance) TB 36" M. Sdlg. 86-28. Named for a gracious lady and friend. This exquisitely formed coral pink self with 7 buds is a vigorous grower. Color Satin X Custom Made. **\$25.00**

ORETTA McCARTHY (John Durrance) TB 35" M. Sdlg. 84-22. A steely grey blue self with dark blue beards. 7 buds. The delicate form and elegant manner of this iris mirrors the lady who selected it and for whom it is named. Prince of Peace X Sexton 3-75. **\$25.00**

- PALAZZO** (Tom Magee) TB 38" ML. Openly, gaudy baroque deco. Falls semi-flaring grandiose florid facade. Std. upright strong garlanded pilaster mid rib holding rococo flutes and volutes. Cherub styles cavort in rhythmical Italian opulence. A villa of gleaming light yellow, ivory and gold gilt. Colorado Sunshine X Wedding Cake. 2 ECs 1985, HC 1985. **\$40.00**
- PETITE QUEEN** (Ray Lyons) TB 33" EM. Sdlg. LY80-25-1. A blocky lavender orchid plicata. The white standards have a lavender orchid 1/2"-3/4" infusion on the edges. White falls have lavender orchid 1/2" stitched rim on the edges and lines on the midrib. Flowers are nicely ruffled. Beards are white with yellow in throat. Petite Posy X Casino Queen. **\$25.00**
- PINK BOA** (Joe Hoage) TB 34" ML. Sdlg. H79-70. Attractive medium pink self with feathered edges reminiscent of the scarves worn by society ladies of yesteryear. Delightful pink flowers are highlighted by brilliant red beards. H72-12; (Pink Sleigh x After All) X Fashionable Pink. **\$30.00**
- RALPH WARNER** (Hazel Warner) TB 35" M. Sdlg. H84-1. Named for the late husband of the hybridizer. Near white standards cap the flaring light purple falls. The falls are accented by a white blaze and red-orange beards. Dream Romance X Metropolitan. **\$25.00**
- RUTH PORTER WARING** (John Durrance) TB 33" ML. Sdlg. 86-19. A brown rose-red self with ruffled & laced falls. Named for Aunt Ruth, a 98 year old lady who is a true garden lover and a long time friend. A loyal supporter of our flower, member of AIS, and lifetime board member of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Her favorite color is red. Mulled Wine X Palmer Leader. . . **\$25.00**
- SILVER HEELS** (Ray Lyons) TB 35" ML. Sdlg. LY78-15-5. A full flowered iris of pale silvery orchid. Standards are widely ruffled and billowy and are rimmed with fine lace. Flaring falls are finely laced and scrolled. Styles finely laced. White beard at tip grading to rich gold in throat. Petite Posy X Pink Sleigh. EC 1984, EC 1986. **\$30.00**
- TUFFET** (Tom Magee) SDB 10". Chair for Miss Muffet. Soft creamy ground. Upright domed std. Mid rib lt. yellow edged light violet plic shadow. Falls flared horizontal with raised mid knoll topped with cream beards tasseled gold to deep orange at throat. Style pale violet bordered yellow with violet lip. Sea Change X Nazette. **\$15.00**
- YUKON TWILIGHT** (John Durrance) TB 38" M. Sdlg. 83-16A. Twilight grey-blue self. Ruffled with dark blue beards and 7 to 8 buds. Sib to Yonder Blue. Sexton 3-75 X Song of Norway. **\$25.00**

For a complete listing of available varieties, including previous introductions from Colorado hybridizers, please request our free 1988 catalog.

LONG'S GARDENS

P.O. BOX 19

BOULDER, COLORADO 80306

M.A.D. IRIS GARDEN

Bob and Mary Dunn
Phone (916) 482-0562

4828 Jella Way

North Highlands, CA 95660

DIVINE (Mary Dunn) Large ruffled flowers. White standards and deep violet-blue falls with large white spot around white beards, heavy substance. Well branched—usually 3 flowers open. Very showy. Ghio 77-70: (Premonition sib x (Mystique x Barletta) X Fancy Face. **\$30.00**

DESIGNER JEANS (Bob Dunn) Big bold denim-like blue flowers on well branched stems. Type of texture that gives a look of stone-washed denim jeans. Heavy substance. His Lordship X Blue Maxx. **\$30.00**

LE FLEUR (Mary Dunn) Bright fuchsia rose self. Very ruffled with heavy substance and showy orange beards. Makes a bold garden statement. Well branched, lots of flowers, and long season of bloom. Entourage X Hilow. **#\$30.00**

MARGARITA TIME (Bob Dunn) Grey-green and tan with mauve added—like the late day sky. Very ruffled with many flowers. Strangely showy for a muted blend. Well branched stems with good substance. Color holds well here in warm weather. **\$30.00**

ZANY (Mary Dunn) Very ruffled large irregular marked plicata type in blue and white. Usually no two flowers alike, great form and substance. Three flowers open at once, good for shows and different. Odyssey X Smoke Rings **\$30.00**

All five of the above for \$100.00 with no extras. Add \$3.00 handling and postage. California residents add sales tax. No other list, please order from this ad. Previous introductions also available—ask for price. Shipping July thru September.

NEW FOR 1988

POINTE OF VIEW—TB, 36", E-L. Named for the beautiful Pointe Hotel at which we stayed during the AIS convention in Phoenix. A ruffled and lightly laced lavender orchid. White beards changing to peach in throat. The large flowers with closed standards and semi-flaring falls are of good substance. Excellent show branching with 9 to 13 flowers. Good plant habits, fertile. Sdlg. 107-84: 14-81: ((Grand Waltz x (Flight of Angels x Dream Date)) x (Dream Time x (Cross Country x Winter Olympics))) X Foolish Pleasure. Exhibition certificate at DVIS Show '87, HC '87. **\$30.00**

TRANQUIL MOMENTS—TB, 36", M-L. A ruffled white with slight shading of yellow on hafts; yellow beards. Flowers are of good substance with semi-flaring falls. Beautifully branched stalks with 8 buds. Slight fragrance, fertile. Sdlg. 9-77-2: Country Manor X Lemon Mist. **\$25.00**

MRS. RICHARD P. (ELEANOR) KEGERISE
4306 Seventh Avenue Temple, PA 19560

DANCER'S LADY—36", M-L. Beautifully formed, deeply ruffled, smooth textured light blue self. White beards, yellow in throat. Sweetly fragrant, 7 or more blooms nicely displayed on strong well-branched stalks, and vigorous growth habits. Sdlg. 82-437-2: Barely Blue X Swirling Seas. HC '86. **\$30.00**

AYLA—36", E-M. Lovely flounced soft pink blooms with serrated petal edges. Beards tipped white, deep coral pink in throat. Averages 8 or more buds per nicely branched stalk. Frequently has 2 or 3 bloom stalks per rhizome. Produces a floriferous clump. Good growth habits. Sdlg. 81-270-C: Wondrous Love X Paradise. **\$30.00**

JEWEL OF SPRING—36-38", L-VL. An exceptionally beautiful iris. Lovely flaring form with bubble ruffled petals in an exquisite shade of light orange apricot. Deeper colored beards. Strong, 4-way branched stalks carry an average of 7 to 8 large, weather resistant blooms. Fragrant. Excellent growth and increase. Sdlg. 83-432-1: Pleated Gown X Gold Galore. HC '87. **\$35.00**

MRS. GRANT D. (EVELYN) KEGERISE

501 Pennsylvania Avenue

Reading, PA 19605

GEORGE A. SHOOP

12560 S.W. Douglas

Portland, OR 97225

CRANBERRY SURPRISE (Shoop '88) TB, 35", midseason. Lightly ruffled and flaring cranberry self. Tangerine beards. Well branched with 7 buds. Good plant. Sdlg. 81-7: (brown sdlg. X Dutch Magic). **\$25.00**

SPRING PLEASURE (Shoop '88) TB, 35", midseason. Ruffled, heavy substantanced white self. Red tangerine beards. Strong plant, well branched, 8 buds. Sister to the deepest pink I have grown! Sdlg. 82-33-2: (79-30 X Today's Fashion). ... **\$25.00**

SUMMER FASHION (Shoop '88) TB, 35", midseason. Cool pink standards and falls. Ruffled and flaring. lavender-pink beards. Heavy substance, well branched, 8 buds, strong plant. Sdlg. 82-18: (79-28 X Today's Fashion). **\$25.00**

HUG A BUNCH (Shoop '88) IB, 18", early. Flaring and ruffled deep pink with tangerine red beards. Branched, excellent green foliage, good growth. (Blushes X Spring Dancer).
..... **\$12.50**

Two of the above TBs—\$40.00

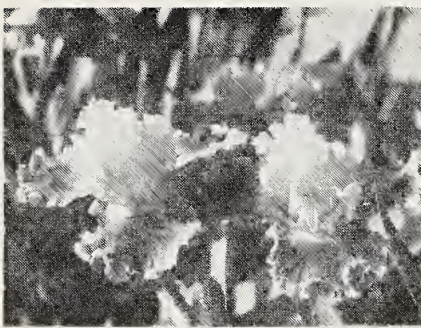
Add \$2.00 for postage and handling

New Introductions from

MAPLE TREE GARDEN

Larry L. Harder
P.O. Box 278
Ponca, NE 68770

Free catalog of latest irises and
daylilies upon request.



Shelly Elizabeth

SHELLY ELIZABETH (Katherine Tutin 1988) #T 82-17, 28", E-M. From a new hybridizer comes this tall bearded iris in a glowing new color combination. The bright and luminous yellow standards dome gracefully over the dark wine-red falls which are edged a shade of yellow to match the standard color. Bright fuzzy gold beards enhance the flower on very flared falls. Flowers are ruffled and lightly fluted. It has a pronounced sweet fragrance. A very unusual and different iris. Much admired in large clumps in several Phoenix gardens at the 1987 convention. Abundant bloom on a clump and good increase make this an excellent garden subject **NET \$30.00**

PERT AND PRETTY (Katherine Tutin 1988) #T 81001, 33", M. The name is apropos. It is very pert and pretty. Pert standards are light pink and lightening at edge to almost ecru, with a glowing of yellow radiating from the base. The very pretty and flaring falls are basically white with tones of pink-ecru at edges and glowing yellow at the hafts set off by bright gold beards. All very frilly and lacy. Straight, sturdy, nicely branched stalks carry 7-8 buds for a long bloom **NET \$30.00**

WALTER A. MOORES

Route 5, Box 189-B,

Starkville, MS 39759

1988 INTRODUCTIONS

Arilmedian

RANCHIPUR— $\frac{1}{4}$ Aril, 15", E. Rounded and serrated mustard brass with wine innerglow at base of standards. Wine line signals below mustard beards. Strong, slender stems with one branch carry 3 to 4 buds. Sherlock X Moon Dust. **\$12.50**

Reblooming Talls

GOLD REPRISE—32", E & RE (Oct. TX). A sib to Dime Spot, this golden yellow with golden yellow texture veining in white area surrounding golden yellow beards is a reliable rebloomer long before the threat of frost or freeze. Multiple buds on well branched stems. **\$25.00**

WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS—32", M & RE (Oct./Nov. TX). Standards are solid golden yellow. Falls are white with a solid golden yellow band and golden tan plicata brushings on either side of light yellow beards. A golden tan central stripe lines each fall. An absolutely reliable rebloomer with width and ruffles, branching and bud count, this iris will please you in the spring, too. Palo Pinto X Halloween Party. **\$25.00**

—All three for \$50 plus postage—

Send stamp for list. Add \$3.00 for postage or UPS. Shipping charges negated with bonus iris.

MELROSE GARDENS

Ben R. Hager
Sidney P. DuBose

309 Best Road South
Stockton, California 95205

1988 Introductions

WORLD CLASS (Hager) TB. Big true amoena. Impressive **\$35.00**
FRINGE BENEFITS (Hager) TB. Very lacy bright orange **\$35.00**
AMAZON BRIDE (Hager) TB. White, bordered yellow. Vigorous . . . **\$35.00**
MANY HAPPY RETURNS (Hager) Rebloom TB. Rosy purple **\$35.00**
MOTHER EARTH (Hager) TB. Ruffled beige-lavender bitone. Sumptuous. Our gift to you on orders of \$35.00 up. One to a customer. NO SALES.

From Manley Osborne

SPECIAL FEATURE—Lavender-violet TB with FLOUNCES! **\$15.00**

From Ho Shidara (Japan)

Two Siberian iris novelties (Flat: six falls, no standards)

HELICOPTER—Deep violet, prominent gold signals (like a helicopter) **\$25.00**
RIKUGI SAKURA—Really pink! **\$25.00**

From Bob Raabe (Australia)

Two Louisiana irises

GERRY MARSTELLER—Truly pink with beige border **\$25.00**
COORABELLE—Deep purple TETRAPLOID, flashy signals **\$25.00**

From Jonnye Rich

Two Arilbreds

DESERT MIRAGE (1/2) Violet/white classic plicata pattern; black signals **\$25.00**

SAND SCULPTURE—Partially fertile triploid. Wide petaled light bronze; red signals **\$25.00**

Two Hager Arilbreds: NAKED EYE—near white bitone with maroon signals.

DESERT DIAMOND—white falls lightly speckled charcoal beards . **\$25.00**
each

Two Miniature Dwarfs: TINY CHERUB—peach pink!! **MACUMBA**—dark red bitone **\$15.00 each**

Intermediate Bearded: ALL RIGHT—orange juice, bright beards **\$15.00**

Three Miniature Tall Bearded (Tetraploids): LITTLE ME—pink. **LITTLE YOU**—pink/yellow blend. **LITTLE WHO**—maize yellow . . . **\$15.00 each**

Two Standard Dwarfs: RUSTY DUSTY—bright yellow/brown plicata. **SMALL RITUAL**—dark red bitone **\$15.00 each**

Two Spurias: IN DEPTH—deep violet, little signal. **LOOK LIVELY**—purple/white. **Louisiana Iris: ANN'S CHILD**—bright red **\$25.00 each**

All of the above varieties not attributed are by Hager

COLOR BROCHURE—\$1.00 on request with full parentages and descriptions. No full catalog. We are retired to seedlings and introductions. AIS, AHS, ADS members are invited to visit the gardens by appointment at bloom time. Phone (209) 465-8578. Gardens closed to the public.

THE '88 BYERS INTRODUCTIONS FROM MOONSHINE GARDENS

EASTER LACE (TB) 36", M. Beverly Sills X Moonlit. * S. orchid pink with yellow edges; F. orchid blended yellow at hafts with tannish borders; bright orange beards. * Short, fat, round petals all heavily laced and ruffled. Beautiful pastel coloring. **\$30.00**

TB SPACE AGERS

BLOWING BUBBLES 36", M. Leda's Lover X (Sky Hooks x Condottiere). * White touched cream at hafts; yellow beards and long white curved horns or spoons. * Bubble ruffled! Excellent. **\$30.00**

CLASS ACT 36", M. Leda's Lover X Moonlit. * S. yellow; F. snow white with yellow hafts and borders; yellow-orange beards and short pale violet horns. * Not consistent with its horns but even without them, a first class production in every respect. **\$30.00**

DEITY 36", M-ML. Song of Norway X Sky Hooks. * Opens very pale blue, turns white; pale blue beards and good blue horns. * The best of hundreds of seedlings from Song of Norway with space agers. **\$30.00**

EGYPTIAN 34", M. Broadway X (Going My Way x Sky Hooks). * S. golden tan; F. white with deep red-violet plicata borders; yellow-orange beards and red-violet horns. * Very wide heavily ruffled flowers. Intriguing. **\$30.00**

HANDS UP 36", M. Blowing Bubbles sib. * S. yellow; F. cream with yellow hafts and edges; yellow-orange beards and long smooth violet-white horns that often become spoons when they end with dabs of yellow petaloid. * Queen of Show stalks. **\$25.00**

LATE LIFTOFF 36", M-L. Risque Pink X Moonlit. * Creamy coral-apricot; red-orange beards and long smooth pink horns that adhere to the falls halfway down, then lift off. * The first space ager I've ever seen to do this, and it always does it here. **\$25.00**

LOVEBIRD 30", EM-ML. (Mistress x a Hager horned violet sdlg. with tangerine b. from Moon Mistress x horned Meed sdlg.) X sib. * Pale pink stitched light red-violet; red-orange beards and fuzzy red-violet horns. * A lovely lacy pink plicata space ager. Nothing like it! **\$35.00**

MAUVELOUS 36", M. Fire Creek X (Sky Hooks x Condottiere). * S. very smooth smoky mauve-pink; F. pearly white with mauve-pink hafts and narrow borders; blue beards tipped bright red-orange and short blue horns. * A marvelous new shade of mauve, very smooth and satiny. It's just marvelous in all respects! **\$35.00**

PAGAN PINK 36", M. Late Liff off sib. * S. hot pink with lighter edge; F. very pale pink with deeper hafts blended tan and faintly veined orchid; bright red-orange beards on orchid bases and long fuzzy amethyst horns. * A hot number! The horns draw attention to the orchid in the beards. **\$30.00**

POTION 36", M. Dream Affair X Sky Hooks. * S. medium pale pink; F. paler pink with deeper pink hafts; red-pink beards and occasional short pink horns. * Dream Affair in pink. The most fragrant pink iris ever, consistently here—white cake frosting! **\$30.00**

SCENTED BUBBLES 36", E-M. Sky Hooks X Victoria Falls. * Medium blue; blue beards and long blue horns, spoons or big flounces. * Big, wide, heavily ruffled flowers that often put out a super intense, sweet fragrance but the intensity varies. **\$35.00**

TB and MEDIAN REBLOOMERS

CANDYLAND (BB) 23", E-M. Face Powder X Marmalade Skies. * S. white with faint flush of pink up midrib; F. peach pink with suffused white borders; tangerine beards. * Very clean and pretty, well formed flowers with horizontal flare. Practically an everbloomer here. **\$25.00**

CURTAIN UP (TB), 34", EM-ML. I Do X Sky Hooks. * S. greenish gold slightly blended pale violet on the outside, pale violet inside. F. pale violet blending to green gold hafts and ruffled edges which curl up to reveal bright yellow reverse; yellow beards. * Very good, very lovely flowers that make me think of a theatre curtain starting to gather and rise, the way the fall edges curl up. Very fragrant, too, and its rebloom has started as early as July here. **\$35.00**

DARK CRYSTAL (SDB) 12", M. Third World X Jewel Baby. * Deep wine purple S.; wine black F.; blue-violet beards. * Excellent shape and excellent proportions. Reblooms in early summer here and then again starting in October. Extremely vigorous. . . **\$15.00**

ETERNAL BLISS (TB) 35", M. (Startler x Sky Hooks) X Heaven Helped. * S. very pale violet; silvery violet-white F.; tangerine beards. An exquisite sib of Lurid's that is an everbloomer here. Light and bright flowers with domed standards and wide recurved falls. **\$30.00**

MAIDEN (TB) 35", EM. Orange wonder X Hager horned pink from Moon Mistress. S. peach pink; F. pinkish apricot-orange; tangerine orange beards. * Gorgeous flowers of faultless form on show stalks. A very reliable rebloomer here but starts rather late—towards the end of October or in early November. **\$30.00**

MISTY TWILIGHT (TB) 38", M-L. Violet Miracle X (Cease-Fire x Sky Hooks). * Pale violet-blue with misty green-white centers on F.; blue beards. * Very large, well formed, ruffled flowers on towering thick stalks with wide branching. Strength that rivals Violet Miracle, and its rebloom starts even earlier here—early September. **\$30.00**

SMELL THE ROSES (SDB) 13", E-L. Third Charm X Baby Blessed. * Medium violet-blue blended deeper rosy violet at hafts; blue beards. * It does smell just like roses, everyone that has smelled it has agreed. What a potent rose perfume it is too! Probably the strongest, fastest increasing iris I've ever grown. In just two years from the time it was still a seed, it had over 100 increases! A super strong rebloomer, too, starting in early September. **\$10.00**

SPECIAL OFFER: Receive all 19 introductions for \$267.00 (½ off, an average of just \$14.05 each). Add \$3.00 for shipping and handling within the Continental U.S. and 6% sales tax if you live in California.

Send for our free catalog. It's loaded with information on these introductions and all the other varieties we list. Among the areas mentioned are fragrance, fertility, form, substance, branching, bud count, hardiness, vigor and reblooming ability. A much expanded listing this year. Loads of Medians as well as TBs, rebloomers and space agers.

MOONSHINE GARDENS

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 367, Potter Valley, CA 95469

Garden Address: 12570-A Powerhouse Road, Potter Valley, CA



MILLER'S MANOR GARDEN

Roger & Lynda Miller
(219) 597-7403

3167 U.S. 224
Ossian, IN 46777

1988 Introductions

- AT DAWN** (L. Miller) TB, 29", E-M. Dawn breaks over this lemon yellow iris. Falls are slightly deeper, accented by deep aureolin yellow hafts extending halfway down. Dark aureolin beards. 6-7 buds. Sdlg. 5084A: Dream Affair X Gold Burst. **\$30.00**
- BITE SIZE** (L. Miller) MDB, 4½", M-L. Petite rounded blossoms of dark spectrum violet dazzled by full bluebird blue beards. Sdlg. 785F: Betty Emmons X Hoogpum Purple. **\$10.00**
- CANDY FLUFF** (L. Miller) MDB, 7½", L. Like pink fluffy cotton candy, blossoms are lightly ruffled pale venetian pink with deeper coloring around self beards, 2 buds. Sdlg. 4084B: Baby Pink X Pixie Pink. **\$10.00**
- GENTLE DRAGON** (L. Miller) TB, 32", M. Butterscotch standards are heavily veined maroon; falls are red-black, thinly rimmed pale butterscotch with golden orange beards. The lightly ruffled and flared form gives this flower gentleness, 8 buds. Sdlg. 5884B: Aztec Treasure X Gypsy Caravan. EC '87. **\$30.00**
- HARRY HITE** (Hite by J. & G. Norrick) MDB, 7", L. Unusual color combination. Beige standards with pale orchid falls that are trimmed beige at the tips, reddish brown veins around sides of white tipped gold beards. Branched. . . **\$10.00**
- LOVELY ME** (L. Miller) SDB, 10", E-M. Easy to love. Heliotrope blue blossoms with dark spectrum violet spot. Open but round, lightly ruffled standards and flaring, ruffled falls; paler beards. Sdlg. 484: Jennie Grace X unknown. **\$12.50**
- MERCY ME** (A. Machulak) SDB, 9", M-L. Domed yellow standards set atop round, flaring falls with a slight deep gold wash; light gold beards tipped blue accent the yellow green spots. Produces 3 buds and slender foliage. Sdlg. 82-73-17: Sunny Heart X unknown. **\$12.50**
- MODERN MOOD** (A. Machulak) SDB, 8", E. Slender leaves hold up these violet-blue blossoms with purple-violet markings and blue beards on the flaring falls, 3 buds. Sdlg. 52-78-14: ((Chinese Coral x Flippancy) x Buffy) unknown. **\$12.50**
- SHEER CLASS** (L. Miller) SDB, 11", M-L. Classy round and ruffled petals of pale French rose pink with light magenta rose rays radiating from coral pink beards. Sdlg. 4284: Pink Kitten X Inscription. **\$12.50**
- SNUGGLES** (L. Miller) MDB, 6-6½", M. A bicolor supported by fine foliage. Standards are domed pale bluebird blue. Pointed falls have a heavily veined overlay of full dauphins violet with dark gold veining at hafts; bluebird blue beards. Sdlg. 787A: Betty Emmons X Hoogpum Purple. **\$10.00**

*Add \$2.50 shipping and handling when ordering from this ad
Send stamp for descriptive catalog*

Pacific Coast Hybridizers

**For 1988
Introductions from**

**David Mohr
Dr. H. Mohr
Ken Mohr
Dr. John S. Nelson
Iris Irene Nelson
and
Bryce Williamson**

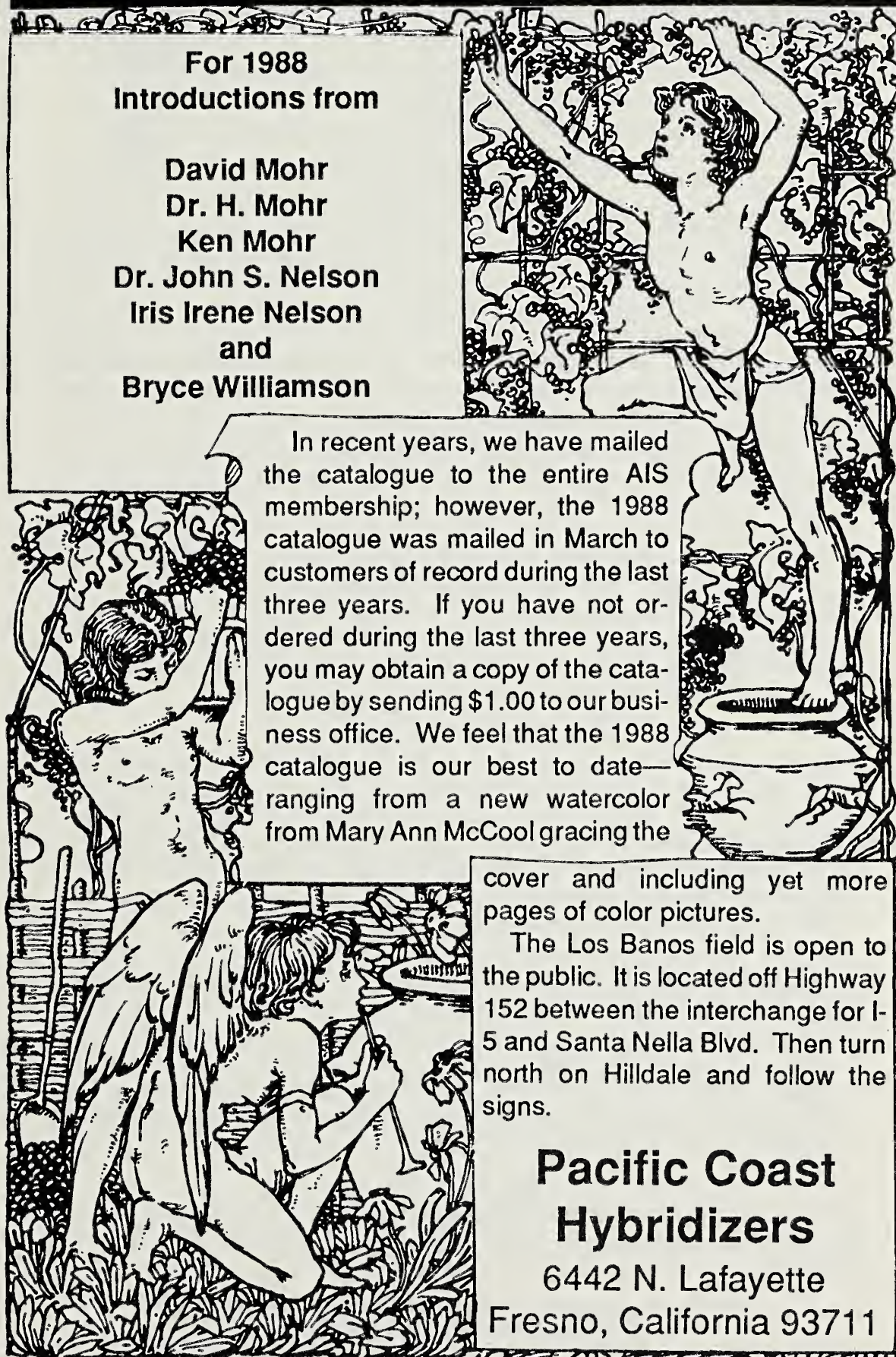
In recent years, we have mailed the catalogue to the entire AIS membership; however, the 1988 catalogue was mailed in March to customers of record during the last three years. If you have not ordered during the last three years, you may obtain a copy of the catalogue by sending \$1.00 to our business office. We feel that the 1988 catalogue is our best to date—ranging from a new watercolor from Mary Ann McCool gracing the

cover and including yet more pages of color pictures.

The Los Banos field is open to the public. It is located off Highway 152 between the interchange for I-5 and Santa Nella Blvd. Then turn north on Hilldale and follow the signs.

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Fresno, California 93711**



RIALTO GARDENS

John Weiler
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Fresno, CA 93705

OUTSTANDINGLY DIFFERENT IRISES
 Not Just Improvements on Old Themes



1988 INTRODUCTIONS

Tall Bearded

GLORY STORY (Weiler 88) TB 36" L-VL. Heavy fluting on all petals give unique form for a dark blue iris. Thick substance make 8-10 late, well-timed buds flower until other iris finish, extending the season. Well-branched stalks, husky growth & rapid increase make an outstanding garden plant. 82-104-8: (Social Whirl x Bridal Wreath) X (Goodnight Irene x Blue Lustre). **\$30.00**

GOLDEN VELVET (Weiler 88) TB 37" E-M. Smooth ivory yellow standards contrast beautifully with golden velvet falls. Good stalks & modified candelabra branches display 8-9 flowers in sequence on vigorous plants with healthy foliage, 82-143-1: (Trudy x Roe D10 greenish amoena) X Peach Sundae. **\$30.00**

JOLT (Weiler 88) TB 32" M-L. The most shocking, deepest fiery orange and yellow combination yet produced with deep, flaming carrot-red beards & a yellow flash at end of beards. Broad, lightly ruffled petals on 3-branched stalks with 7 buds flower a long time. Abundant bloom on a clump & good increase make this an excellent garden subject. 81-90-3: (((New Moon x ((Glittering Gold x Orange Crush) x (Ballerina x Orange Crush))) x Summer Dawn) x Sunfire) X sib to Fame. **\$30.00**

Standard Dwarf Rebloomers

BLITZ (Weiler 88) SDB 10" E-L & RE. The earliest to rebloom here, standards are full yellow, falls intense golden velvet with light yellow beards. Heavy bloom spring, some repeat & abundant rebloom September-October. 84-50-1: (((Ruby Contrast x Little Blackfoot) x (((Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Bronze Babe) x (Cartwheel x (Brighteyes x Grace Note))) x Pink Amber) X (((Yellow Wave x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x (Cartwheel x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x Chariots) x ((Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Gingerbread Man) x Stockholm)). **\$10.00**

RAINBOW SHERBET (Weiler 88) SDB 8½" E-L & RE. A new bicolor, pastel yellow standards, pastel orange falls with palest blueberry beards. Good substance, flaring & ruffled falls make a perky flower. Heavy spring bloom, some repeat, then early, scattered fall rebloom for several weeks. 84-39-1: (((Ruby Contrast x Little Blackfoot) x (Blue Canary x (Brighteyes x Grace Note))) x Dancing Damsel) X (Melon Honey x ((Bloodspot x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x Satin Lustre)) . . . **\$10.00**

SPECIAL OFFER

With check to Reblooming Iris Soc. join 3 years, \$7.50, receive 1 free 88 SDB rebloomer; join 1 year, \$3, get free 1 87 SDB rebloomer

Write for a free price list of reblooming bearded irises
 Include \$2.50 postage on orders
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ED ROBERTS

Route 7, Box 656

Frankfort, KY 40601

HIGH TRIBUTE—TB, 32", M. Sdlg. 821. This ruffled bright deep orange self has intense red-orange beards. At a garden in Colorado last year, this iris had three stalks and seven buds per stalk on a one year plant. High Bid X Holiday Magic. HC '82, EC '86 **\$30.00**

LAST BID—BB, 24", L. Sdlg. 841. One of the last irises to bloom, this is a real bright spot in the garden. Like a rich ripe cantaloupe, with a light touch of pink. Nice size and a good grower. (Pipe Dream x Orange Vista) X Far Corners **\$25.00**

The 1987 Original Introduction

BOLD ARRANGEMENT—TB, 34", M. Sdlg. 840. "The most original color in all iris land." This was the comment of the iris judges who saw this iris. Bold and bright, with flaming red beards, a deep toasted melon color. Good branching, good grower. Far Corners X High Conquest. HC '84 **\$25.00**
or 2 for \$40.00

*No catalog. Order from this ad.
Include \$2.50 for postage.*

1988 INTRODUCTIONS

DOROTHY PALMER (S. Stevens) Sdlg. 81-6-3. TB, 35", M. Ruffled and lightly laced buff (RHS 27A) self with pink overcast and tangerine beards. Slight-sweet fragrance. Show stalk branching with 7 to 9 buds. 77-14-13: (Denver Mint x After All) X Sheer Poetry. EC '85, HC '84 & '86 **\$30.00**

ALICE GOODMAN (E. Roderick) Sdlg. 8301A. TB, 34", M. Bright pink self. Broad, flaring, ruffled and fluted falls with lighter area beneath pink beards. Vigorous grower with excellent branching, 7 to 9 buds. The type of iris you would expect from two outstanding pinks. Erleen Richeson X Beverly Sills **\$30.00**

Please add \$2.50 for shipping and packing

RODERICK IRIS GARDEN

1137 N. Main

Desloge, MO 63601



Shepard Iris Garden

Don & Bobbie Shepard
3342 W. Orangewood
Phoenix, Az 85051
Ph (602) 841-1231

1988 INTRODUCTIONS

PHOENIX FIESTA (Shepard '88) TB, 40", E-M. This beauty stands out clear across the garden. The standards are iridescent copper sand. The falls are rich red with large cream-white blaze radiating from the shoulders and sporting yellow beards. Excellent branching on a perfect show stalk. Slight sweet fragrance. Baja Bandit X (Carnival Time x Red Fox).
..... **\$30.00**

BRASSY LASSY (Shepard '88) TB, 36", E-M. Very ruffled bright golden yellow with velvety texture, orange beards and pronounced fragrance. This beauty is a favorite with our garden visitors and made an impression at the '87 Convention. Very vigorous grower. #85007: Bengal Tiger X Woodcraft. **\$30.00**

BRIGHT LADY (Shepard '88) TB, 37", M. This bloom makes me think of Easter! Creamy yellow standards with ruffled edges sit atop velvety royal purple falls. Golden yellow shoulders and beards put on the finishing Easter finery. #84091: Good Morning America X Rose Tatoo. **\$25.00**

FROSTY RUM (Shepard '88) TB, 32", M. Voted an EC in 1985 at the Spring show, this plicata has rum brown standards veined cream. Heavy rum brown shoulders extend to slight brown rim around a white ground blended yellow, with brown dotting and center stripe. Dark carrot red beards. Beyond X Burgundy Brown. **\$25.00**

IRISH BUTTER (Shepard '88) TB, 34", E-L. This is a garden iris. It blooms, blooms and blooms again! It has a good stalk and multiple bud sockets. It is an overall greenish gold self with heavy golden brown whiskers extending in a veining effect with a 1/2" yellow border on the falls. Ruffles and mustard gold beards finish it up. **\$25.00**

SPLASH DANCE (Shepard '88) AB, 48", E-M. This seedling was the first to bloom and took the hearts of all. It has a good mixture of tall bearded and aril traits. A grape mauve self covered with irregular white marble-like splashes, veined darker mulberry, and a subdued purple signal. Gold style arms and rootbeer beards add to the ambience. This arilbred has branching and multiple buds. Slight fragrance. (Pink Pom Pom x Rose Tatoo) X Bold Sentry. **\$25.00**

PICACHO PEAK (Wickenkemp '88) SPU, 36", M. Graceful and erect reddish brown standards and style arms. The falls are wide and golden yellow with pencil slim rim of reddish brown on the sides, widening on the bottom. #SP-83-1: Son of Sun X SP-79-6: (Fergy's Poetry x Proverb. **\$25.00**

IMOGENE PEARL (Gary Miller '88) TB, 36", E-M. Pale blue standards fade to near white with denim style arms and darker blue stripes down center. Falls are dark blue to near purple. Beards are white tipped blue, turning to yellow deep in the throat. Lightly ruffled with sweet fragrance. Good branching will earn a ribbon to match! #GM3-83-1: Patricia Craig X Lord Baltimore. **\$25.00**

Buy two introductions, get one of equal or lesser value FREE!
Please add \$3.00 postage and handling. Catalog on request.

TEA FOR TWO (Spahn '88) TB, 34". Ethereal light lilac with reams of ruffles and exquisitely laced. Almost a self, a bit pinker in the domed stds. Round flaring falls. Light yellow beards. Great parent. (Grand Waltz X Springtime Fantasy). **\$25.00**

TWILIGHT ZONE (Spahn '88) TB, 36". Brown buds open to reveal chocolate malt interlocking stds. Broad falls are pale lavender with underside and 1/2" edging the color of stds. Large, with laced stds. and falls. Yellow beards with a hint of yellow at the hafts. A subtle light blend. (Sunrise Symphony X Louise Watts). **\$25.00**

MOON OVER MIAMI (Spahn '88) TB, 35". Bright, sunfast golden yellow. A diamond dusted beauty whose color beckons across the garden. No white spot at prominent yellow beards. Ruffled, vigorous and well branched with lots of substance. (Kingdom X New Moon). **\$25.00**

SWEET ALOHA (Spahn '87). Sold out early last year. Finest of the 45 irises I have introduced. A much improved Liebestraum while retaining its unique, deep coral pink color. Wide, flaring falls have a large white area setting off prominent reddish beards. Intensely ruffled throughout. (Liebestraum X Heartaches). **\$18.00 NET**

Any of the three 1988 introductions at half price with NO EXTRAS
or get all 3 for \$35.00
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FRED E. SPAHN

1229 Lincoln Dubuque, Iowa 52001

THIMSEN'S IRIS GARDEN

2030 New Market Road Richmond, VA 23231

1988 Introduction

AUTUMN APRICOT—TB, 30" (76 cm) M and RE. Light orange (RHS 23D) standards and light orange (19B) falls. Red beards. Lovely ruffled form. Ahead of Times X Second Look. Placed second as a seedling in the Region 4 Reblooming Show '86. Loaded with buds **\$25.00**

Please add \$3.00 for handling and shipping.

The Louisiana IRIS

*The History and Culture of Five
Native American Species and their Hybrids*



EDITED BY
Marie Caillat and Joseph K. Mertzweiler

THE LOUISIANA IRIS—

A Pre-Publication Offer to May 15, 1988.

Comprehensive coverage of five native American species and their hybrids. Published by the Society for Louisiana Irises with a completion date of May, 1988. Hard cover with dust jacket. Over 210 pages of manuscript and black/white photos plus 37 pages in color. History of collecting and hybridizing, culture, judging and other information about Louisiana irises. 20 authors.

Orders received by May 15, 1988, are \$16.95 per copy, including shipping. (Texas residents add state tax of \$1.12). Price after May 15 is \$23.95 plus \$1.00 shipping (Texas residents add \$1.68.)

Send check or money order to TEXAS GARDENER PRESS, P.O. Box 9005 Waco, TX 76714.

HAROLD L. STAHLY

8343 Manchester Drive

Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

1988 Introductions

Again, we have some introductions of Bill Simon's as well as our own. Mr. Simon had registered a number of seedlings before his death, and we are planning to offer others in the future.

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN (Simon '88) TB, M, 40". Pale greyed blue self, white beards. This stately, well branched iris has beautiful ruffled form. A standout in the garden. HC. Sdlg. #21-67-5: Soft Cadence X Columbia Blue. **\$25.00**

HIGH FIVE (Stahly '88) TB, M, 34". Cool ice white with light blue beards. Superb blooms are large, wide, semi-flaring, ruffled and fluted; 7 to 9 blooms on strong stalks—a little high branched. Good breeder. Sdlg. #80-8: Frost Line X (Ivy League x River Patrol). **\$25.00**

MAGIC SONG (Stahly '88) TB, M, 36". Peach standards lightly touched violet at midribs; falls with peach-tan hafts blending smoothly to deep rose; bright tangerine beards. This very clean, bright bicolor has well branched stalks that carry 7 to 9 buds opening to semi-flaring, moderately ruffled, well formed, large flowers. Showy! Fertile. Complex parentage involving Peach Float, Barcelona, Mary Randall, Edenite, Licorice Stick, Black Swan and Carved Cameo. Sdlg. #81-17. HC '85, EC '86. **\$25.00**

MOON REFLECTION (Simon '88) TB, M, 40". Standards white with cream infusion; falls white with gold hafts; yellow beards tipped white. Beautiful ruffled form on tall well branched stalks. An attention getter that grows well. HC. Sdlg. #87-4-2: Carved Marble X Sun King. **\$25.00**

OBLIGATO (Stahly '88) IB, M, 24". Like the clear pure strain of a violin obligato, this sparkling clean, shining orange IB sings out above the garden chorus. It carries bright tangerine beards with the very tips striking white. Classic flared IB form with light ruffles; 5 to 6 buds on good stalks. Sdlg. #84-4: Marmalade Skies X Melon Honey. **\$15.00**

SHEILA B (Simon '88) BB, E-M, 24". These lovely flowers have creamy white standards and white falls, edged lemon cream; lemon beards. The classy blooms are profusely produced, and the plant makes a striking clump. HC. Sdlg. #8-44-4. Demure Miss X Carved Marble. **\$25.00**

1987 Introductions

HIGH CONTRAST (Robarts '87) Contrasty reverse blue amoena . . **\$20.00**

KINGLY AIR (Robarts '87) Full deep blue self; self beards **\$20.00**

KISSING SKY (Robarts '87) Blue amoena; stately beauty **\$20.00**

MY CONFECTION (Simon '87) Beautifully formed pink self **\$20.00**

ON THE ROAD (Stahly '87) Light blue bitone; bronze beards **\$20.00**

WESTLAND JEWEL (Simon '87) Very clean, ruffled deep red **\$20.00**

*Write for list of previous introductions
Please include \$2.00 for shipping
Shipped late July and August*

NEBRASKA—BORN IRISES

Hardy to -20°

1988 INTRODUCTIONS

JAZZEBEL TB '88 Not just another amoena/plicata. Jazzabel's bright clean colors are eye-catching. The white is white, and the falls have an inner plicata border of bluebird blue and an outer white border to match the standards. A standout in any planting **\$25.00**

MORNING SHOW IB '88 For generations we have been crossing the maroon reds with dark lemon yellows to get bright reds. MORNING SHOW is our brightest red to date. In the morning sun, it is a flash of red across the garden .. **\$15.00**

OTHER VARIGAY GARDEN INTRODUCTIONS

MARIA TORMENA IB '87 Our first variegated pink Iris. A healthy, floriferous pink with pansy violet splashes and a poppy red beards **\$25.00**

BB COLLECTION '87 Five beautiful Border Irises, including COLOR BRITE '87, ZINK PINK '87, LITTLE MISS '87, BERRY RICH '87 and BATIK '86—all for **25.00**

IB COLLECTION '86 See color ad in January '86 AIS Bulletin. Seven beautiful Intermediate irises named and recently introduced—all for **25.00**

SDB COLLECTION '84 See color ad in January '84 Bulletin. Twelve beautiful SDBs—all named and recently introduced. Seven have received HM awards. All twelve for **25.00**

BATIK BB '86 White ground striped royal purple. See color ad January '86 **12.50**

PEOPLE PLEASER SDB '86 Falls spectrum violet standards, Indian yellow—spectrum violet beards **5.00**

KAREN CHRISTINE TB HM '87 A beautiful Iris named for a beautiful young lady. See color ad January '85 Bulletin **10.00**

PAINTED PLIC TB HM '85 Wide-petaled, uniquely-marked variegated Iris. See back cover July '83 Bulletin **10.00**

WAMPUM IB HM '85 Oxblood red **5.00**

ALMOST GLADYS TB HM '84 Near pink amoena **5.00**

PURPLE STREAKER TB HM '83 Victoria violet with white stripes **5.00**

PANDORAS PURPLE TB HM '83 This unusual plicata has everything **5.00**

GENEROUS EXTRAS

Select from the following

JILLAROO SDB HM '87	Violet standards, brown falls
FEATHERED FRIEND BB HM '83	White lacerated petals
IRIS BOHNSACK BB AM '87	Variegated color pattern
NICE 'N NIFTY IB HM '84	Dark violet and white plicata
TAKE IT EASY BB HM '84	Yellow with white spots
SHAHROHK MAHROHKI TB HM '83	Good brown
MISS REGION TWENTY-ONE SDB HM '81	Yellow with spot pattern
INTY GREYSHUN BB HM '81	Variegated color pattern
PEACH CREAMY BB HM '80	Peachy creamy
DOODLE STRUDEL TB HM '79	Variegated color pattern
AZAP IB SASS MEDAL '87	Additional extra with every order

VARIGAY GARDENS

Allan Ensminger

RFD 3

Lincoln, NE 68505



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| 1981 | Gold Medal Award, International Competition for small
Irises, Vienna, Austria |
| 1982 | 191 votes for AIS HM Award |
| 1984 | 237 votes for AIS Award of Merit |
| 1987 | 297 votes for the Hans and Jacob Sass Medal |

See for yourself why AIS Judges have given AZAP such an astounding vote of approval. AZAP is an extra with any order from Varigay Gardens. (See opposite page.)

TOW PATH LANE GARDENS

Introducing for 1988

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MEDIANS: Leapin' Lizards IB '85; Dash Away SDB ;81.

KEN and AGNES WAITE

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1988 Introductions

FEATHER STITCH (Gadd 1988) TB, 30", M. This strong growing lemon iris is one of the best we have introduced. Standards are primrose yellow, blending to white toward the center; falls slightly darker primrose yellow with a dark band of orange on the outer edge; heavy ruffling with yellow beard. Sdlg. 50-81. Top Banana X 24-82: (Golden Profile x Buffy). **\$25.00**

SHADBUSH (Gadd 1988) TB, 34", M. Another vigorous iris from strong growing parents. Standards copper brown with dark veining and midribs slightly ruffled; falls, copper brown and flaring. Two branches and terminal; 8 buds on a strong stem. Sdlg. 20-76. Chief Suckiag x Wangunk. **\$25.00**

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ARILBREDS

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LOSKEHA (Gadd 1988) AB-MED, 15", E. Light golden buff self. Standards light golden buff; falls, slightly darker with a small lavender signal; tan beards tipped lavender; fine aril shape. Sdlg. 33-73. Moonday X 3-66: (Imam Salah x May Troll). **\$15.00**

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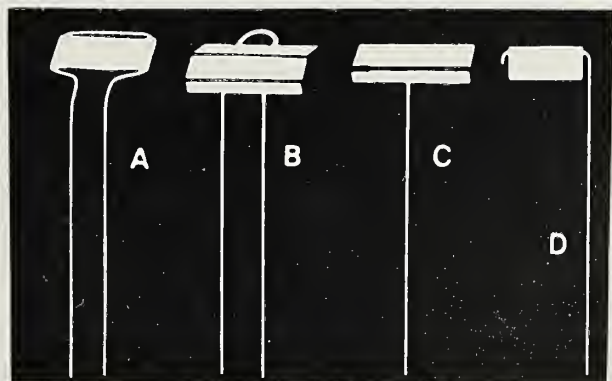
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EXHIBITION COMMITTEE REPORT CORRECTION

A typographical error in this report listed an EC winning seedling of Mr. Peter J. Colletti as 77-126-G. The correct number for the seedling is 77-126-6.

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AIS CALENDARS: A Review

When work began on our calendar project several years ago, the committee proceeded carefully to consider the essentials of the effort. First we surveyed the market for types, sizes, photography, mailability, and investment cost to AIS.

Having just made a major expenditure in mailing tubes for show posters, it was obvious that this was not the most economical or practical shipping method. Likely calendars for size were purchased, weighed and the mailing cost including envelopes calculated. The size deemed most practical for the money was chosen.

It is difficult not to choose pictures of tall-bearded irises for each of the twelve months, because the T.B.'s are most often seen. However, a great many sales, both individual and wholesale, are made to botanical gardens and

arboreta where patrons are frequently interested in species irises. These purchasers are good possibilities for membership in AIS, the underlying purpose of the calendar project.

Because of the competition among hybridizers we chose not to label the pictures with cultivar names. Most irisarians have no difficulty identifying them anyway. Garden design is taken into account in order to attract another group, those who plan the 'bones' of gardens. Captions are kept as simple as possible, and special dates are kept to a minimum. One purchaser who annually buys thirty calendars for Christmas gifts adds to each one the signs of the zodiac and other intimate notes—a personal touch only the individual buyer can do.

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List of April Advertisers

Arilian Acres (Shockey)	71	Long's Garden	84, 85
Aura	73	M. A. D. (Dunn)	86
Blaylock	71	Maple Tree (Harder)	88
Boswell	72	Melrose Garden	89
Bumble Bee	73	Miller Manor	92
Burch	72	Moonshine Gardens (Byers)	90, 91
Cape (Niswonger)	74	Moores	88
Carr	75	Ohio Gardens	79
Cooley's	Cover 4	Pacific Coast Hybridizers	93
Craig	103	Paw Paw Labels	108
D. & J. (Meek)	76	Rialto	63, 94
East Wind (Bausch)	81	Roberts	95
Ensata	64	Roderick	95
Eon Industries	103	Roris Gardens	60, 61
Faggard	77	Rowlan	104, 105
Fort	Cover 3	Schreiners	Cover 2
Gaddie	78	Schultz	106
Geostar Travel	77	Shepard Gardens	96
Hall	78	Shoop	87
Hamlin's Inc.	106	Society For Louisiana Irises	98
Hamner	79	Spahn	97
Illini Irises (Varnier)	80	Stahly	99
Innerst	62	Sutton	103
Joe Pye Weed	81	Thimsen's	97
Johnson's	82	Tow Path Lane (Waite)	102
Jones, Bennett	83	Varigay (Ensminger)	100, 101
Kegerise, Eleanor	86	Wethersfield (Gadd)	102
Kegerise, Evelyn	87	Zug	103
Kirkland (Lankow)	107		

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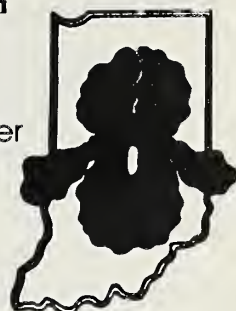
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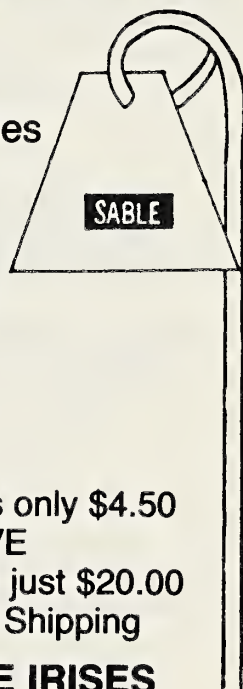
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All advertising copy and photographs, except color which requires individual arrangements, must be received by the Advertising Editor by April 15 (July Issue), July 15 (October Issue), October 15 (January Issue) and January 15 (April Issue).

Send advertising copy and check payable to The American Iris Society to:

Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor

P.O. Box 37613

Omaha, NE 68137

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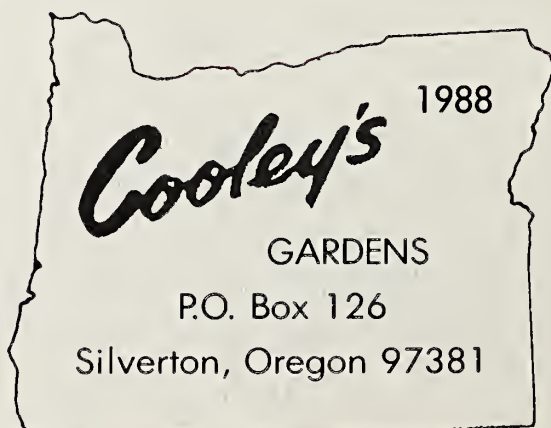
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Bulletin of the

American Iris Society

Number 270 July 1988



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A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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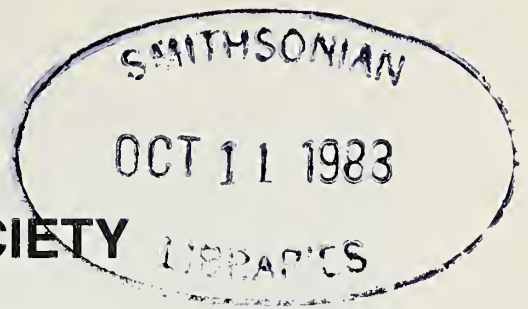
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**BULLETIN
OF THE
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**
ISSN 0747-4172



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Series No. 270

July, 1988

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

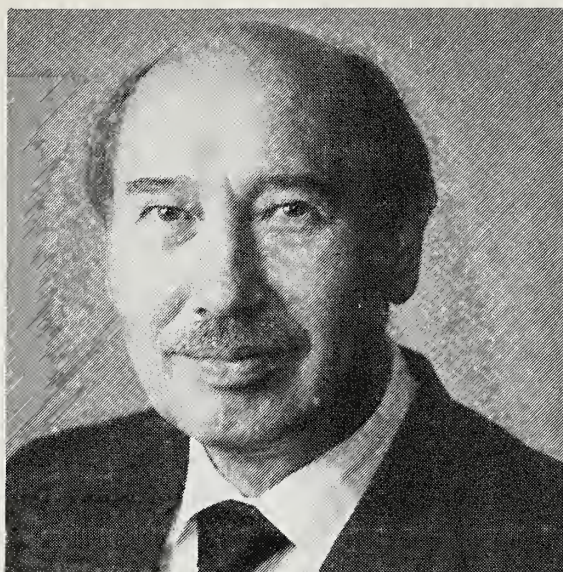
Start Something Great in Memphis	4
Tips for Small-Scale Hybridizers.....	Margie Robinson..... 7
Improving Iris Seed Germination	Chris Vizvarie..... 8
Breaking the Rules	Chris Vizvarie..... 10
An Amateur Gives Advice	Ron Mullin..... 10
100 Years of Hybridizing	Audrey Machulak 12
DC in 91; A Request of Guests.....	18
Scientific Report	Adele Lawyer..... 19
How Much Would You Pay For Irises	Chandler Fulton..... 22
Breakdown of Iris Registrations.....	Allen Harper..... 28
An Iris Should Earn the Dykes	H. L. Ames..... 30
The Iris in the Perennial Border.....	Peggy Estes..... 35
Stars of an Outstanding Season.....	Rachel Drumm..... 38
Bloom Season in the Tennessee Hills	Phil Williams..... 40
Pacificas From Seed.....	Adele Lawyer..... 53
Approved AIS Affiliates for 1988.....	Jim Copeland 59
A Topical Collection of Iris Stamps.....	Harry Kuesel 66

Regular Features

President's Message	3	AIS Sales Items	77
In Memoriam.....	5	Iris Slides.....	78
Gifts to AISF	26	Advertising Rates.....	78
Youth Views.....	29	Commercial Directory	79
Advertisers	34		

Front Cover: On the Cover is the winner of the Board of Directors Award,
WHITE SWIRL. Photo by George Waters.

Photo Credits: Loretta Aaron—page 37. All others unless otherwise
designated—Ron Mullin.



From the Desk of the President

James Rasmussen

I want to compliment the Sooner State Iris Society for a great job of hosting our national spring convention. Their hospitality made all of us feel at home and gave us the opportunity to meet again our iris friends from around the world.

Spring also gave many of us a chance to enjoy the local shows, one of the most important functions in the AIS. Iris clubs and societies across the nation provide the general public with a view of irises and a very positive idea of the aspects of belonging to our organization that would be impossible to achieve with any form of advertising. The Society is indebted to all local groups who plan and carry out annual shows.

We also owe a debt a gratitude to our judges. They are the backbone of keeping up the quality of shows, and most of all, they are responsible for selecting the best irises each year for the awards system. Judges give generously of their time and travel countless miles to keep up their credentials.

Regional Vice Presidents promote activity and education in their areas of the country. They are in charge of providing the opportunity for judges to receive continuing training. Through their efforts and those of their Judges Training Chairmen, many excellent training programs have been put in place throughout the country. All of us in the AIS need to support our local clubs and our regions. These are so very vital in providing iris fellowship and iris education to interested gardeners everywhere.

By now we are no doubt poring over this year's iris catalogs and attending club sales and auctions, feeling very much like kids in a candy store. Half the fun is in anticipation: How will "the new baby" look here? Or should it go there? Or perhaps it would be nice to do the whole iris bed over. . . . Such planning makes even the hottest days more pleasant. Have a nice summer!

Start something great in Memphis

Jim Browne

The 1989 American Iris Society Convention in Memphis will be special in many ways. From the atmosphere to the plantings, it will be remembered in the minds of many irisarians much like the 1977 Convention in Memphis when we sailed the mighty Mississippi or the 1957 and 1965 conventions when we gathered in the Grand Lobby of the Peabody Hotel to watch with amazement the ducks' daily parade to the hotel's classic lobby fountain.

Next year's convention will open in 'Ole Man River.' (yes, in the Mississippi River) Since the last AIS Convention in Memphis, the city has developed a \$64 million park highlighting the history of the lower Mississippi River. The convention will officially open Sunday evening, April 30 with dinner on Mud Island, as the waters of the river flow past, sparkling and glistening in the setting sun.

The Memphis convention will again be headquartered in the Peabody Hotel, the South's Grand Hotel. The ornate lobby, trimmed in mahogany and polished brass, is even more elegant than at past Memphis conventions. Six years of extensive restoration and renovation have returned the Grand Lobby to its original Italian Renaissance style. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Peabody is the gathering place of the South. The famous Peabody ducks are back with their daily trek from their penthouse home to the Lobby Fountain at 11 A.M. every morning. At 5 P.M. each afternoon, they depart from their fountain retreat, march along their red carpet to their own waiting elevator and return to their rooftop penthouse home until another day.

Another special feature of the next year's Memphis convention is the use of the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden as a Master Planting. Visited twice over the three days of garden touring, this garden is a horticultural gem. In preparation for the National Convention, the staff and crew of the Memphis Botanic Garden have worked closely with the Iris Garden volunteers. Since 1983 when the convention invitation was accepted, eight 30' red maples that partitioned the garden into three sections have been removed. Also, the various burford and American hollies have been removed as well as the cherry laurels that skirted the perimeter of the garden. Further, the 70 foot abelia hedges lining the brick walkways were replaced with some of the 867 guest irises in the Memphis Convention. A total of 10,000 square feet of iris beds was opened for the convention last summer; existing beds were gassed, and in the last 5 years, 30 cubic yards of top soil have been added to the iris beds. New plantings of white and Chinese dogwoods surround the garden with color in the spring; the sterile white *Althaea* 'Diana' and Dawn redwoods repartition the garden into its three formal display areas.

Passing through an open portico edged with the Siberian irises of this Siberian Display Garden, the conventioneer will walk into a bricked courtyard with dwarf irises in the forefront. Circling to the north and south, this walkway leads to the back of the garden where guest spurias are planted. Louisiana and Japanese irises are viewed in this area also. Along the bricked walkways and within the circle formed by them, the guest irises will be found. To the immediate North and South of this area are the 1985 through 1988 Award of Merit winning tall-bearded irises. In the remainder of the garden, nearly 2300 different iris varieties may be seen, including almost 90% of the Honorable Mention award winners from 1984 through 1987.

As this is the fourth time Memphis has hosted the American Iris Society's National Convention, we have attempted some new strategies in bringing this convention to you. We have limited the age of convention guest irises to 1986 and newer varieties. We have limited the number of seedlings each hybridizer can guest at the Memphis Convention. Yet, to make the convention both a convention of new iris cultivars and an awards oriented affair, we have strived to insure that the HM and AM award winning irises will be seen growing in the Master Planting.

We are determined to make the Memphis Convention a relaxing, elegant, and captivating event that you will remember for years to come. If you have never been to a convention, we hope you will plan on attending the Memphis Convention, April 29 through May 3, 1989, and "Start Something Great in Memphis." After one AIS convention, you will rearrange your spring schedule to attend every convention in the future.

IN MEMORIAM

Henry Danielson

1906-1988

By Melvin Bausch

Henry Danielson, one of the foremost authorities on the hybridization of Aril and Arilbred irises and a master judge from Region 23, died peacefully in the arms of his wife, Lu, in their home in Chaparral, New Mexico.

Henry was born and reared on a farm in South Dakota. His interests as a youngster were gardening and the raising of egg-laying chickens. He was able to increase production by purchasing a pedigree male and breeding him to the best females in the flock. The male offspring were then bred to the entire flock to increase the egg production. This was Henry's first experience with genetics.

When he was in his mid-twenties, he left the farm and moved to Chicago where he attended a Trade school. A few years later he renewed his interest in iris gardening. Starting with tall bearded irises, he soon branched into Arils which he discovered needed a different type of culture in a northern climate. Seeking advice from the suppliers of Aril stock and reading all the printed

material he could find, he put his own abilities to work to solve problems and grew stock which became cold tolerant.

With goals in mind, he started hybridizing tall bearded irises with arils. Flirtation Waltz was his first introduction in 1962. Over the following years, he won numerous Honorable Mentions and Awards of Merit. Stars Over Chicago, Genetic Dancer, Bionic Burst, and Snow Over Chicago, all were voted the C. G. White Award. The Mohr Award was presented to Genetic Burst and Aril Lady. The American Iris Society Medal for Achievement in Hybridizing was awarded to Henry in 1982.

De Mouse is his latest creation and has produced seedlings which will create ripples in the iris world. Henry has worked a number of years on the Pacific Coast Native Irises which he has climatized for more gardeners to enjoy.

Soft spoken Henry accepted his recognition by always crediting others who helped him to achieve his goals. He was a life member of the Aril Society International and received their award for Outstanding Aril of the Year in 1970 for Big Black Bumblebee.

Thomas E. Jacoby 1893-1988

By Albert F. deGroat

Thomas E. Jacoby, who served as Editor of the AIS BULLETIN from 1960-64, passed away in Batavia, New York, on February 17, 1988. Tom, as he was affectionately known to those who worked with and knew him, had settled in Oakfield, New York, after taking early retirement from service in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Seeking an "outdoor hobby," he decided on iris culture and was soon enrolled in the Empire State Iris Society and AIS. His enthusiasm and talents were put to work for ESIS as treasurer and then editor. The 1958 AIS Convention held at Syracuse reinforced his interest in the iris scene. When Fitz Randolph took over as AIS President in 1960, he asked Tom to join as Editor of the national BULLETIN.

Tom's approach to editing was a professional one and the BULLETIN had an improved status under his guidance. One change, not unanimously approved by all AIS members at the time, was to bring color printing to the periodical's cover. Its general organization and content was also improved. Elected also to the AIS Board, Tom attended conventions and board meetings despite a firm dislike of air travel. These activities became the center of his life. In conversations with him, 1960 was "the year of the Portland convention", etc.

When his "tour of duty" in AIS was over, he returned to editing the ESIS Newsletter. He remained active in ESIS activities, continued to serve as a show judge, and supported the auctions. He would often purchase an iris at one auction and donate it to the next one. Finally, deteriorating health meant care in the nursing home where he lived his remaining years.

We, especially the long-time members of AIS and Region 2, should remember his unstinting devotion to our programs and publications.

Tips for the Small-Scale Hybridizer

Margie Robinson (Kansas)

A backyard hybridizer and one who hybridizes on a large scale share a common commitment—working to produce outstanding new irises. To accomplish this, we must study, experiment and test many cultivars before parent plants can be chosen. What follows is simple by comparison.

It is unlikely that any hybridizer has found the magic moment when the most successful crosses can be made. I seem to have better luck making my crosses on the cooler days, whether or not the sun is shining. Chances are best for success when both the pod parent and the pollen parent are at the peak of their quality. I've found that some irises not producing pollen make excellent pod parents. Nature does seem to compensate. Perhaps the most important factor is the health of the entire plant. The hard spring freeze of 1987 taught us plenty about irises. In southern Kansas, we lost almost 90 per cent of our tall bearded bloom in some areas. The few bloom stalks that did appear would not set pods.

After a cross has been made, it is important to take the flower and record the cross immediately to prevent errors. The ovary should show signs of swelling within a week after fertilization. By the third week, all spathe material should be removed for a very important reason. The pod moth will lay her eggs under this material away from direct sunlight. When the larvae hatch, they have easy access to the pod. We have to destroy their chances.

If a pod is broken off at four or five weeks' development, even though it is very green, do not throw it away. Germination is possible in some of these seeds. I harvest seed pods between the seventh and eighth weeks, just before the pods begin to split open.

After the pods have dried, remove the seeds and place them in labeled, open containers and let them rest on a shelf until early November planting. I do not plant earlier because of unseasonably warm weather that we sometimes have in the fall. This can cause premature germination. Before the seeds are planted, soak them for at least twelve hours. Each family of seeds is planted in a one pound coffee can. First, punch drain holes in the bottom of the can, then drop in a few pieces of broken pottery (crookery). Fill each can with well moistened potting soil, pressing in firmly. Press the seeds into the soil to a one inch depth. Cover with a layer of sphagnum peat moss and water. Place labeled lids on the cans tightly. Sink the cans into the ground in a well-drained area of the garden. I usually place these cans in a row at the front of a raised bed. Press the soil firmly around each can, and place a brick on top if needed to assure that the cans stay in place.

Never allow the seeds to dry out during the winter. It usually takes no more than three waterings to keep the soil moist inside the cans.

When germination begins, remove the lids and place screening over the cans for protection. The little seedlings will thrive with minimal care until time for lining them out. Separating the seedlings is not difficult.

After lining out the seedlings, feed them well. I usually use a half-strength solution of any flower-formula every two weeks for two months after they are planted. They need sufficient moisture during the high temperatures of July and August. In Kansas this may mean temperatures of 100 degrees or more.

In late November, mulch the seedlings lightly with prairie hay. If the winter is dry, they should be watered several times. Sufficient water is one of the most important ingredients for success from the time the seeds are planted until the plants have reached their first bloom.

In the spring, with great expectation, a hybridizer looks forward to the reward for all his efforts. He hopes that on a special May morning he will walk into his garden and be greeted by the maiden bloom of a spectacular iris.

Improving Iris Seed Germination

Chris Vizvarie (Oklahoma)

About two years ago, I discussed seed germination with Paul Black. Paul had experienced problems with the seeds moving upward in the soil mix during watering. This allowed the seeds to dry out, and they did not germinate. Our conversation led to the thought that planting the seeds on top of the planting mix and covering them with an inch layer of sand might solve the problem.

That fall, Paul planted seeds in five inch plastic pots with a soaker hose laid across the top to provide additional moisture. The pots were then lined out on top of the soil instead of being sunk into it. This allowed for drainage and oxygen, both essential elements in the germination process. A good soil mix was also used since the small price paid is repaid in success. Native clay soil sometimes results in germination as low as ten per cent.

The germination rate on this first seedling crop was a great success. Approximately six thousand seedlings will be available for evaluation as a result of that new method of planting.

In the fall of 1987, I tried a variation of the above planting method by using a coarse natural gypsum in place of the sand. The gypsum has proved to be much less porous to water. It is probable that oxygen is also not as readily available. Since clay pots are being used in place of plastic ones, this latter may not be a problem.

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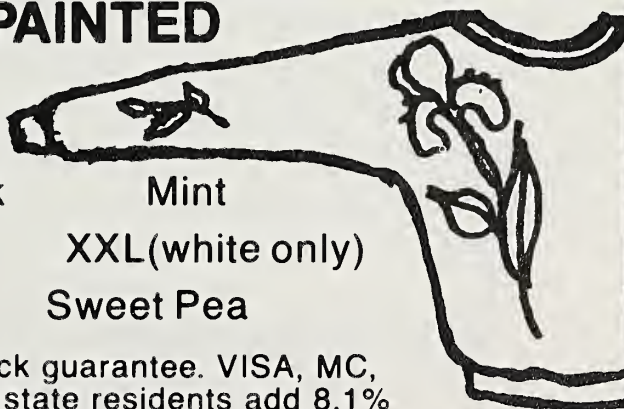
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Breaking the Rules on Planting Seedlings

Chris Vizvarie (Oklahoma)

This article is not written to advocate its content, but rather to give hope to the hybridizer-gardener when confronted with a challenge. In September, 1987, a good friend offered his crop of 1986 iris seedlings to me. The generous offer was accepted with a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm, and with trepidation.

The plants were no larger than they would be at spring germination. After careful thought, the decision was made to transplant despite the time of the year. If a cool greenhouse had been available, that might have been the solution. It wasn't.

An area 200 feet long was prepared quickly and was rototilled to a ten inch depth. One ton of granular natural gypsum was applied to each row and a ton of horse compost was added to one row. The other row received a side dressing at a later date. The rows were hilled and transplanting was begun without allowing time for settling at all.

Transplanting was finished by mid-October and a liquid fertilizer plan was incorporated. The idea was to push the plants at this time to encourage as much root growth as possible. This was necessary to prevent heaving. The feeding was done at two-week intervals until all watering and feeding was discontinued at Thanksgiving. Growth was not rampant, but it was adequate. Some plants reached a height of three inches and actually developed increase "buds." Plans for mulching were abandoned, and the plants were left to the elements. The winter proved to be comparable to many in southern Connecticut. Temperatures went below zero and into single digits, setting new records. These temperatures occurred with and without snow cover. The real test came in February when the temperatures went close to zero and a wind-chill went to - 35 degrees—all this without snow or mulch as a protective cover.

The only losses were attributed to crows who mistook the seedlings for corn and a few that were destroyed by dogs. The remaining plants have good root systems and seem to be well established. I don't suggest a change to this type of seedling planting, but it does allow insight into what happens when you break the rules.

An Amateur Gives Advice

Ron Mullin (Oklahoma)

Many different methods are used to plant iris seeds, and varying degrees of success are achieved. If you happen to be one of those people who is lazy, forgetful, and still interested in hybridizing, the following tips are for you.

Many hybridizers plants seeds in pots, cans, buckets, and other containers. This is a good idea, especially if you follow Margie Robinson's recommendation and use a lid which will keep the planting from drying out. However, if you don't have lids for the cans, you need to remember to water often enough that the seeds do not dry out. Once they become too dry, your hopes of getting germination are nil. Since I am forgetful, planting in pots is not a good idea for me. So, I've developed my own plan for me and people like me. I plant the seeds directly into the ground. It is not as likely to dry out as the soil in a pot is likely to do. I use a planting mixture (usually redi-earth) and I plant the seeds in rows which can be clearly labeled. After the planting has been made, I cover the area with leaves and put a screen or grating over the planting. This keeps the leaves in place and also allows water to easily reach the planting. The leaves hold the moisture and also keep the water from washing the seeds out of the ground.

At the time the planting is made, each row is labeled and a map is also made. Be sure to make the plantings far enough apart that no question exists about which row is which. The leaves will keep the planting moist, but they should be removed in March so that the warmth of the sun can penetrate to the soil and aid the germination.

Before the planting is made, check to see that the seeds will not be in an area where heavy rains will cause erosion. If water rushes across the planting, you can expect to find the seeds have washed away with the soil.

Planting the seeds close together seems to aid in germination also. Many theories have been presented about how the movement of the seeds stimulates neighboring seeds to do the same action and germination increases. I have no idea if such a theory is true or not, but I do plant the seeds close together. It is not difficult to separate them when it is time for transplanting.

To avoid mix-ups, remove the soil from the planting area before putting a new crop of seeds there the next year. Since planting of seeds is shallow, it is not difficult to remove the soil each year. This is the same routine that would be followed if you were using a seed bed or box.

Usually, I will not have many seeds to plant each year, but the method I use has to be the simplest available. I usually get so involved with other things during the winter months that I forget to water often enough to maintain needed moisture in a pot. For me, planting directly into the soil is the only way. I've never failed to get germination of a high percentage of seeds using this method, but I've never been successful at all with any other method. Accumulating enough containers for the crosses would also be a problem for me. This idea is presented to show that, like gardening techniques, seed planting takes many forms among AIS members.

NOTICE

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL
APPEAR IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN.**

100 Years of Hybridizing

Mrs. Walter A. (Audrey) Machulak (Wisconsin)

Hybridizing can become addictive—once you have made your first cross you are “hooked.” However, the secret of avoiding undue frustration lies in taking the right approach from the very beginning. If one were to contact the experts before making the first cross and learn of mistakes they have already made, some disappointments could be avoided. Heaven knows there are enough mistakes to go around. In my interview with three Wisconsin hybridizers who represent over one hundred years of hybridizing, I have gleaned various bits of information that may be of help to someone who is contemplating his first attempt as a hybridizer.

Clarence Protzmann, widower and octogenarian plus a few years, lives in Milwaukee in the home he and his wife built over thirty years ago. Having won a City Beautification Award several years ago, Protzmann still maintains every inch of his large city lot without outside help.

Art Blodgett, also an octogenarian lives in Waukesha with his wife Romona. Together they grow and hybridize not only irises but daylilies and lilies as well. Any visitor to their yard is able to see a large collection of the newest introductions of irises and daylilies. Blodgett's seedlings are growing very contentedly among the beans, carrots, and squash of their vegetable garden.

Royal Johnson and his wife Evelyn live at Windlake in a park-like atmosphere. Since his retirement, Johnson has spent much of his time maintaining his formal gardens, where blooming plants are visible throughout the growing season. Daylilies are a second love; you will find a generous collection of seedlings growing among named varieties. And we must not forget the hundreds of roses that are in bloom all summer long.

The three basic methods usually followed in the breeding of garden irises are line breeding, outcrossing, and a combination of the two, but when is one method favored over the other? Our hybridizing experts will supply us with information they have learned from their years of experience. The fact that these hybridizers live in Wisconsin where weather plays an important role in the growing of irises must be taken into consideration. Any iris grown in Wisconsin is subjected to temperatures that range from 25° below zero to 100° above zero, winters with no snow cover to several feet of snow cover, hot and dry or cool and wet summers, and the freezing and thawing conditions which probably cause the demise of most irises in this area. Rot is a common problem as well as irises being attacked by borers. Thus, irises successfully hybridized in Wisconsin must be strong enough to withstand such harsh conditions.

The first hybridizing attempt is often crossing “anything with anything,” haphazardly going about the garden taking pollen from here and putting it there. The results of this procedure more than likely will be disappointing. A better approach would be to begin with a goal in mind before any attempts are made. What would you like to see in an iris or what feature would you like to

enhance in a variety that already is your favorite? To strive for a particular goal eliminates all the side roads along the way which are only distractions.

In an exemplary breeding program which he began in 1967, Johnson chose lace as his goal. In the years that followed, lace was appearing, but it wasn't until 1970 that the cross of PEACH BEAUTY × 65-31 bloomed and a seedling he numbered 70-2 (a lavender) rewarded him by being extremely lacy. In the parentage, PEACH BEAUTY had lace, but 65-31 (another lavender) had no lace; however, there was lace in its parentage.

In the 1950's a cross of WAXING MOON × ALA KALA was very successful in producing some fine seedlings for Protzmann. He had always been interested in the hybridizing angle of plants, but because he was unable to hybridize within his vast collection of dahlias, he switched to irises. His objective was to create good form, substance, ruffling and clearness on a white iris, bringing about the true blueness of its beard. His goal was a ruffled pure white iris with an intense dark blue beard.

Blodgett, on the other hand, began his hybridizing in 1937, after buying a \$2.00 collection of irises from Schreiner's and was surprised with the good quality of these plants. He had read a bulletin from the Department of Agriculture on breeding cattle and became the enthusiastic hybridizer, crossing anything with anything, but he didn't think he was very successful, finding few seedlings worth saving. Eventually he settled on hybridizing one color, blue, a cross of GREAT LAKES × Splitt's blue seedling. (Splitt was a fellow member of the iris society who also hybridized.) Blodgett feels that his biggest mistake was not beginning with a goal in mind.

Views differed when these hybridizers were asked if they felt they had reached their goals. Johnson felt that his latest crosses were extremely lacy. On the other hand, Blodgett felt that he would never reach his goal because his standards in the breeding program become more demanding as the years go by, and Protzmann, too, hasn't reached his objectives.

In every venture, milestones occur, and hybridizing is no exception. However, experimentation is not a controlled process and often takes an indirect route to one's desired objective. The biggest disappointment is to find the entire cross absolutely of no value because there is poor branching, or the leaves and stalks are not up to standard. When a cross that was carefully planned blooms and isn't acceptable, it is certainly disappointing. But a determined hybridizer carries on; patience is an important virtue. When a new color appears, it usually appears on an inferior plant and another expanded breeding program begins carrying that color onto a more vigorous plant. Possibly everyone experiences these set-backs in the line of breeding.

To plan an adventurous change in one's breeding program may not be advisable, but to concentrate on the improvement of what one has already begun appears to be a wiser choice. The field is too broad for the hybridizer to try to become an expert in everything, and improvement is slow. Because of the extensive breeding program for color, adventurous programs may have to be restricted, placing more emphasis on breeding for vigor and disease-resistance.

Once the hybridizer has acquired all the patience in the world, he must

learn not to carry his hopes too high. High hopes are easily shattered by weather, disease, or insects. Blodgett felt the most important lesson he had learned as a hybridizer was the importance of a careful choice of parents used in his breeding program. He felt that some breeders have a visual idea of what seedlings may look like even before they make their crosses. "They are probably born with this ability," he said, "but I don't have that. I have to rely on line breeding to get the results I am looking for."

When a hybridizer makes his final choice of an iris he will introduce, should he be concerned with pleasing the public or pleasing himself? A hybridizer has chosen his goal because it pleases him. An informed hybridizer will know the qualifications of a good iris using the *JUDGES'S HANDBOOK* as his guide; therefore, it won't be necessary for him to rely on the public's choice. If he has an introduction that is superior to anything on the market in the same color range and he likes it, maybe the time has come to consider introducing this iris. Both Johnson and Blodgett agreed that their final selections for introductions had to be something they themselves liked.

Many of us wish we could do things over again, basing that new beginning on knowledge we have gained over the years. Blodgett is one of these individuals. If he were to begin his hybridizing program today, he would decide to work with one color. He would then select four varieties that he felt were the best in this color range to be used as parents. He would make the first crosses between these two sets of parents and introduce line breeding from this point on. Only if the line began to weaken would he outcross. He believes he could have had successful crosses more rapidly using these techniques.

The progress of a hybridizer is hard to determine because each has a different measurement. Someone may feel that he finally has the ability to pick out a worthy seedling to work with. It has taken years to acquire this skill. Another hybridizer may feel he has made an advancement of disease-resistant foliage or advanced the growing habits of his seedlings. To him this is progress. It has been a slow and tedious task, but the improvement to the iris in the last 25 years is certainly evidence that hybridizers have made progress in the search for a better flower.

It is rather difficult to find books written in laymen's language on the topic of hybridizing, yet our hybridizers all felt they gained invaluable knowledge from reading. Mendel's laws on genetics have been the backbone of Blodgett's learning. Protzmann gave a lot of credit to scientific facts in books on botany and to the general information in the AIS bulletins. He suggested a beginner might obtain a copy of *THE HANDBOOK ON BREEDING ORNAMENTAL PLANTS* by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Libraries are a good place to search for books on breeding plants and animals, for the same basic tactics apply to both. Once the basics have been learned, however, most analysis of thought and application is gained through actual application of pollen to plant. With the passing of time, one learns through his mistakes.

In the book *GARDEN IRISES*, Orville Fay stated there are three methods usually followed in the breeding of garden irises. These are line breeding,

outcrossing, and a combination of the two. Johnson prefers line breeding and has always relied on this method, but in the last few years he has done some outcrossing. He has found that a combination of line breeding and outcrossing has produced color for him. Line breeding is advantageous if one is seeking a specific trait in an iris. On the other hand, Protzmann line breeds and outcrosses so as not to weaken the strain and feels both must be used if one is to gain his objectives. To carry out his program, Blodgett needs all three methods but feels he is able to set better traits by line breeding. He went on to explain that he would start by cross breeding (or he might find a good seedling from a previous attempt at line breeding) and try to make crosses many different ways. He would outcross, sib-cross or backcross in his attempt to concentrate the plant genes he is looking for.

When asked if he follows a certain pattern in line breeding, Johnson explained that he has had four line breeding crosses. He will choose seedlings from one cross and breed them into a second pair of crosses, probably repeating this for six years. He will then out cross and then come back into the line breeding program. If the hybridizer is trying to develop new traits, he uses line breeding and then outcrossing; however, if the characteristic is within the material he is using, it is wise to stay within line breeding. Blodgett, on the other hand, sib-crosses in the first generation. In the following generation he backcrosses. He stressed the importance of using two of the most vigorous seedlings in the cross and felt one could sib-cross for two generations before a loss of vigor would occur. Line breeding must be interrupted when the new seedlings lack vitality, and the plants, as a whole, degenerate. The breeder must then outcross into a line that will correct these weak points.

Many times a hybridizer will introduce a first generation seedling and not pursue this line any more. Protzmann felt that if good characteristics were present, he would certainly continue, but if he thought there was no possibility of improvement, he would stop. Johnson wouldn't be too hasty; he would want to make more improvements but would use the seedling in his breeding program. Then, after waiting four or five years, he would possibly consider it ready for introduction. Blodgett, too, would continue his search for something better, never being completely satisfied with the end results. "Improvement is always possible," he said, "but sometimes you can't continue because of sterility." If an iris has met your objective, you can carry on. But sometimes one reaches a certain point where outcrossing becomes necessary because within the seedlings there aren't any further improvements.

According to Blodgett and Protzmann, no iris on today's market is superior to SNOW FLURY, which was registered in 1939, nearly 50 years ago. It has been the premier flower in breeding programs. No particular variety is as outstanding, though there are many good varieties today, such as BEVERLY SILLS which grows well throughout the country. SILVER YEARS, with beautiful foliage, good branching, and three blooms open at one time, is Johnson's idea of a competitor of SNOW FLURY; however, it hasn't proven itself yet.

As each iris is introduced, the hybridizer should strive for improvement over his last introduction. PINK GRACES and ROYAL THAILIA were introduced

together by Johnson. He felt he has made some progress since then by improving bud count, lace, and branching as he continues his "lace" program. CHIEF WAUKESHA was a hit in the red-line breeding program, and Blodgett says he has now been able to add ruffles to his latest seedlings, some having more ruffles than others. The intense red he is looking for still has not appeared as he carries on his search for the red iris. "When you have particular objective, you get some very fine by-products," Protzmann said, as he continues his work for the white iris with an intense blue beard.

Fertility is a definite problem in the intermediate class, but not as likely in the tall bearded class. There may be instances where, in making a cross, a certain plant may or may not accept pollen or set a seed pod, and there are plants that do not bear pollen. Even though some plants do not have pollen, they usually set a seed pod. If plants remain infertile, it is wise to try a new approach the following year; however, if infertility still continues, it is advisable to drop the project.

Orville Fay and David Hall were mentors for Blodgett and Protzmann. In the general cultural discussions held during visits to their gardens, these famous hybridizers shared their learning with the two young Wisconsin hybridizers, and they eventually became personal friends. Blodgett felt that Fay was the greatest breeder of irises in the country and listened intently to his theories and beliefs. But when Blodgett asked Hall about line breeding, he was advised that in line breeding too much vigor is lost. Blodgett said he was inclined to disagree and continued to use line breeding despite the advice he was given. To this day he continues to be a firm believer in this method. Johnson claimed Robert Reinhardt to be his greatest mentor and found his encouragement very helpful. Reinhardt was a Wisconsin hybridizer who was very successful in breeding for lace at the time when Johnson was just a beginner in the hybridizing program.

The close contact of a hybridizer with his plants is bound to produce favorites. Even though Blodgett has several one year seedlings that seem to be superior, and he must wait until they become more established, his CHIEF WAUKESHA is still a favorite introduction. He feels that it was a good red iris that did well in various parts of the country and has been a good parent for his breeding towards the reds. WISCONSIN HERITAGE and BLUE MOUSTACHE have received the most recognition for Protzmann, but he has a plicata which, as yet not introduced, is fast becoming his favorite. This particular seedling took more effort and more years of application than the others, a combination of his handiwork and mother nature. Of all the irises he has introduced, ROYAL THALIA is very heavily laced, has nice ruffling, and is still one of Johnson's favorites.

In evaluating a seedling, the most important thing to look for is a healthy plant. Considering our climate in Wisconsin, vitality and substance are necessary. The stalk, bud count and branching must be good; the flower must have form, texture, and eye appeal. All these features are considered, but Blodgett feels the plant must grow and increase well all over the country. Protzmann feels that individuality, garden appearance, clarity of color, and

markings are also important in evaluating an iris seedling, but, to Johnson, disease resistance is a top priority.

For anyone who is contemplating making his first cross, Johnson stressed the importance of patience for the would-be hybridizer. A beginner must keep breeding on a line to improve what he is looking for. This field has no room for the impatient individual. The would-be hybridizer must have plenty of ground available to plant his seedlings because one who is just beginning to hybridize has a tendency to make more crosses than someone who has been hybridizing for a number of years.

The future of an iris hybridizer looks very bright. The three hybridizers felt that there is still much to be done. Johnson felt there will always be room for improvement, be it by color, better plants, or disease resistance. Protzmann wasn't sure how much scientific progress would be made because of the "gene-splicing." He felt that color combinations will always have a tendency to variations. "We must be more selective because many things in existence now have characteristics which aren't conducive to further improvement," he said. "One doesn't know what lines science will take in future generations of plants. The iris of the future depends on the quality of the hybridizer, his standards and his approach to breed for disease resistant strains." There will always be weather conditions which hybridizers must take into consideration yet have no control over. The color breaks and bud count will be determined by the quality of material hybridizers will use. One of the hardest things to accomplish will be the control of disease, a very tedious task with uncertain possibilities. The condition of soil, rotation of crops, texture of the rhizomes, and quality of the outer cell are all open fields for the future hybridizer. Blodgett would like another ten or twenty years to carry out his breeding program. "Since the introduction of the first hybrids from tetraploid species in 1904, the iris has advanced in every direction," he exclaimed. He also felt that experiencing problems is the best way to learn how to handle them.

Blodgett has this special advice for someone who is ready to make his first cross. "Be careful in picking the first plants. Start with four of the most recent introductions you can afford, choosing the best parents which have the characteristics you are looking for, and that have proven themselves all over the country." Johnson said, "Have a goal in mind before making your first cross and start with the best parents possible who have the characteristics that you will be looking for in your breeding program." Protzmann's advice to the beginning hybridizer today and the variations of hardiness and the intense breeding, the hybridizer must be more studious and try to gain all the knowledge he can of the inherited tendencies of the plant he is going to work with. There is so much inter-breeding going on. Before, the hybridizer went back to the species iris for new characteristics, but now line breeding is used, and because of so much interbreeding, irises lack stamina. Varieties do not have reproductive vitality; they do not have vegetative reproductive vitality. They lack stamina because of their breeding program," Protzmann said. He added, "In order to start, start with the best material available. Try to have an objective in mind. The beginner must have patience—one needs quite a bit of

that! He can get radical changes by a hit and miss system, but if he has in mind to transfer characteristics, he must have patience because this cannot be accomplished in a generation or two." Protzmann felt individuals should be "induced to enter into hybridizing and experience the many disappointments and the more limited joys of success."

In the iris field, hybridizing opens doors for many individuals. It offers challenges in creativity, experimentation, and self-expression. Both the novice pollen-dobber and the serious hybridizer may partake in a program of their choosing. Once an individual is "hooked" on hybridizing, it is difficult to let go.

D.C. in 1991

Request for Beardless Guest Iris

The Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and Region 4 will host the 1991 American Iris Society National Convention in the Washington D.C. area. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under serious consideration for introduction. In this area it takes beardless irises about three years to establish a clump worthy of viewing.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Up to three rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from September 1 to October 31, 1988.
3. All official guest irises must be shipped to:

Richard C. Sparling
18016 Lafayette Drive
Olney, Md. 20832
(301) 774-4151

4. The following information should accompany each plant.
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address.
 - b. Name or number of the variety or seedling.
 - c. Type of iris.
 - d. Height and color.
 - e. Year of introduction.

5. When guest seedlings are named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than December 1, 1990.

6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors listing the garden locations of the plants. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 1991, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.

7. The Convention Committee and owners of tour gardens will follow the statement of the Code of Ethics as printed in the A.I.S. Convention Handbook.

8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only rhizomes received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in the Convention booklet.

Scientific Report

Adele Lawyer (California)

As the result of an interview with Art McCain, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of California, on October 27, 1986, the following information on the control of diseases of bearded iris was obtained. Most of the control agents are the same as those recommended in the 1986 issue of his University Extension flyer entitled, *Rhizomatous Iris Disease Control*; but I am also listing some promising new chemicals which have shown improved activity for control of leaf spot and rust but which are not yet registered for use in California. Also included are some data obtained from Dr. Robert Raabe and other sources.

LEAF SPOT *Didymellina macrospora* (*Heterosporium gracile*)

SYMPTOMS—Circular or elongated spots appear first as greasy-appearing, yellowish flecks on the leaves. They later turn light brown with a reddish border. Leaves die back when severely infected. Rain and overhead sprinkling favor development and spread of the disease.

CONTROL—Pull or cut off dead and infected leaves when practical and burn, bury, or otherwise remove this infection source. Spray with systemic fungicides as soon as first symptoms are noted, or starting with the onset of the rainy season. Add a wetting agent to the fungicide selected. Benlate (benomyl), Daconil (chlorothalonil), and Fore (mancozeb) are recommended and are labeled for use on iris in California. Using two of these fungicides alternately is better than using one of them exclusively, since resistance to a given fungicide can build up with repeated use.

Bayleton (triadimeon), has a federal registration for use on iris everywhere in the United States except in California. This material is an improvement over Benlate because: 1) It is absorbed rapidly; and, if foliage is thoroughly wet by spraying, good control is obtained as long as there is at least a half hour interval between application and the onset of rainfall or sprinkler irrigation. 2) Length of time between applications can be virtually doubled, (every 20 or 30 days instead of 2 weeks, as with Benlate.) 3) In addition to leaf spot control, this systemic fungicide protects against some rusts and prevents surface spread of mustardseed fungus.

A new fungicide called Systhane (fenapanel), put out by Rohm and Haas, is as effective against leaf spot as Bayleton; however, registration processing is still in progress, which precludes its immediate use. Also, its protective activity against rusts and mustard-seed fungus is not known.

The fungicide, Fore, (mancozeb) is listed as a control for leaf spot in the 1986 updated University recommendations for iris disease control. However, a replicated field test on Dutch iris reported in *California Plant Pathology*, No. 73, Sept. 1986, was conducted in Watsonville by Drs. Tjosvold and Raabe in the spring of 1987. This showed Fore to be no better than the untreated check when applied with a 20-day interval between applications due to continuous rain. Benlate also performed no better than the check in this test. On the other hand, under the same conditions, Bayleton and Systhane were highly effective.

tive in the reduction of leaf spot.

RUST *Puccinia iridis*

SYMPTOMS—Starting as tiny yellow flecks, lesions become larger with reddish-brown clusters of raised pustules in their center, principally on the undersides of leaves. Lesions coalesce in severe cases and entire leaves die off or are very unsightly. Only in coastal fog areas is this a serious problem, and here it is equally and sometimes more destructive than leaf spot. Some Pacific Coast Native iris are even more susceptible than bearded iris, notably those with *I. munzii* in their background. There is a high degree of difference in susceptibility between cultivars of both bearded and beardless iris.

CONTROL—Varieties immune or resistant to rust can be selected for cultivation in gardens, or, if rust is the only leaf disease problem, Plantvax plus a wetting agent could be applied at 2-week intervals starting with appearance of the first symptoms. Bayleton, though not specifically registered for use on rust of iris, has a federal registration for control of rust, including *Puccinia* species.

MUSTARD-SEED FUNGUS *Sclerotium rolfsii*

SYMPTOMS—Rhizomes and leaf bases soften and rot and the fungus is usually visible as a white or tan cottony growth at the leaf bases and on the rhizome. Small, tan, spherical bodies about the size and shape of mustard seeds can be seen on these surfaces. This disease is most destructive where summer temperatures are high and soil is moist. Partially decomposed debris of diverse plant types can harbor the organism for many years.

CONTROL—To prevent introducing this disease into your garden on newly acquired rhizomes, dig Terraclor (PCNB) into the soil before planting. Another preventive measure, originally suggested by Ben Hager and which we have been using with marked success in our plantings, is to cut off all roots of bearded iris being introduced into the garden. The rhizomes are then washed, soaked in 10 percent hypochlorite bleach. (Clorox or other brands of household bleach), for a minimum of 10 minutes; then, rinse with water, allow to dry, and plant. By doing this you eliminate possible nematode infestation of your soil as well as reduce *Sclerotium rolfsii*.

When plants infected with mustard-seed fungus are seen in the garden, cut out infected areas in the rhizome or, if more severely infected, discard the entire rhizome. Thoroughly drench these areas with Terraclor (PCNB). Bayleton may also be effective in preventing spread of the fungus, but we have no experience with this material.

Fumigation is a positive control for this disease. If a license can be obtained, methyl bromide is the best fumigant, but it is only practical where larger areas free of trees and valued perennials can be treated. For smaller, confined areas, Vapam (metham) is an alternate fumigant, although *Sclerotium rolfsii* is not on the label as one of the root diseases which it controls.

BACTERIAL SOFT ROT *Erwinia caratovora*

SYMPTOMS—A soft, foul-smelling, bacterial rot of the rhizome and the leaves contacting the rotted area can kill rhizomes when not recognized in

time to undertake control measures. It is favored by wet conditions favorable for the growth of the causal bacteria but usually originates following an injury by insects or mechanical means, including careless cultivation. Planting rhizomes too deeply also encourages soft rot.

CONTROL—No new bacteriacides are reported. Control remains primitive. Any method used to scoop out the rot and dry out the rhizome, with or without the addition of household bleach or some type of dessicant, (the sun, gypsum, whatever), is state of the art.

GENERAL

FUMIGATION—Using Vapam in the home garden kills most weeds and plant pathogens in the soil and also changes the balance of soil organisms. Bacteria and some fast-growing, non-pathogenic fungi repopulate the soil quickly and irises planted in soil so treated are as vigorous as they were when that piece of land was first planted to iris. Vapam is a valuable material for use in the home garden and is easy to apply.

COMPATIBILITY—The general rule of thumb is that, if two or more pest control agents are mixed together and they go into solution readily, without formation of a precipitate, they are compatible. Insecticides such as Malathion and Orthene can be combined with fungicides to control insect pests along with plant diseases. Two fungicides may be combined if two disease control agents are needed, such as Benlate for leaf spot and Plantvax for rust. If Bayleton or Daconil can be obtained and an insecticide added to the spray solution, leaf spot, rust, and aphids can be handled in a single operation.

TEST STATUS—Tests were conducted in the spring of 1988 in three gardens in California. The following materials are being tested in replicated trials: For control of leaf spot only: Benlate, Prichloraz. For control of rust only: Plantvax, Benodonil. For possible control of both leaf spot and rust: Bayleton, Cysthane, Award (Geigy 71818), Geigy 453, Noram SN 596, Noram 39865.

PESTICIDE CLEARANCE—If conditions developed favorable to the diseases to be controlled, we should have some results to report soon. Also, if effectiveness is proven and a need for the material can be demonstrated, results of the experiment can be submitted to apply for registration for use on irises.

FUNGICIDES—Some of the fungicides mentioned in this report are readily available in nurseries or hardware stores. Others are more likely to be found in agricultural or landscape supply outlets. Contact your county agricultural commissioner's office for information on commercial sources of disease control chemicals.

BALYLETON—Available as Bayleton Turf and Ornamental Fungicide

BENLATE—Readily available under Black Leaf, Chacon, Dupont, Lilly/Miller, and other brand names as Benlate Systemic Fungicide

DACONIL—Available as Cacon Lawn and Garden Fungicide, Germain's Lawn and Garden Fungicide, Lily/Miller's Funginil, Ortho Liquid Lawn Disease Control, Ortho Vegetable Disease Control

TERRACOLOR—Available as PCNB, Cooke Fungicide, Scott's Lawn Disease Control

VAPAM—Readily available as Black Leaf Vapam Soil Fumigant, Green Light Vapam Soil Fumigant

NOTICE—The foregoing report does not constitute an endorsement of any of the pesticides mentioned. It is illegal to use those presently unlabeled for use in California or elsewhere.

How Much Would You Pay for Irises?

Chandler Fulton
(Massachusetts)

An event of unprecedented importance for lovers of irises and other treasures almost as beautiful occurred on 11 November 1987. On this day at a decidedly unseasonable auction in New York City, an iris introduced in 1889, auctioned in bloom, sold for \$1,347,500 a flower. There were gasps in the crowded room when the gavel finally came down at a total of \$53,900,000. The irises were not unattractive: more-or-less tall bearded of *pallida* form with falls that are floppy or fluttering, depending on one's taste, in an attractive violet blue self color that is RHS 98A/B for the more compulsive among us, and with orange beards. Shockingly, even at the exorbitant price the stock was impure; among the bloomstalks were one white and one *plicata* flower. Repercussions of this event will be felt for many years and certainly warrant consideration in our Bulletin.

Inspection of recent Bulletins and catalogs shows that brand new introductions are usually sold for \$10 to \$45, with occasional excursions up to about \$100 which cause grumbles if not boycotts. Until last November, the previous record asking price for an iris seems to have been \$1,500, which Prof. William McGarvey sought for his 1982 introduction ESTHER C.D.M., a white siberian advertised in the January, 1982 Bulletin as "unusually fine." I have been told that the description of this cultivar is accurate but that—no surprise—no plants were sold at this price. And, older irises generally sell for less than new introductions. Why then did this 98-year old iris fetch such a price, and what does it bode for the future?

Vincent van Gogh, the creator of the *Irises* in question, painted the group portrait within a week after his arrival at the asylum in Saint-Rémy in the south of France. Encouraged by his brother Theo to find peace, not passion, by quietly observing nature, Vincent described this painting as among those that are "more studies from nature than subjects for pictures."

I was lucky enough to see this painting in March, 1987, while it was on display in the temporary exhibit, "Van Gogh in Saint-Rémy and Auvers," at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. To me, Van Gogh among artists is as Beethoven among composers or Bee Warburton among irisarians: one simply does not miss an opportunity to visit. Fortunately, at the next to last week of the show, I was in New York City to give a lecture. Afterwards, I stayed overnight just so I could go to the exhibit. I had called the Museum and had been told that tickets were readily available on weekdays, but when I arrived at opening hour on a Thursday, signs everywhere proclaimed the show as "sold out until Tuesday." Heartbroken, I studied the ticket windows until I

found a sympathetic face. I put on my most helpless and sad look. "All the way from Boston . . . can only be here today . . ." Never say miracles never happen. A ticket was put in my hand for that day and hour. Touched by the woman's kindness and filled with extra joy by the reprieve, I joined the herd as they—now we—flowed toward the exhibit. Inside we fortunate people, packed as sardines in a can or perhaps as seeds in a pod, were surrounded by the most wondrous pictures. Completely unexpected, the first of these was *Irises*, with its radiant tribute to the finest of flowers at nearly life size. Red earth in the foreground and orange marigolds in the background set off the vibrant irises. I stood admiring this marvelous painting for a long time, filled with strong emotions. As I worked my way through the exhibit among the slowly moving sea of people whose pushes, presence, smells and sounds I was trying to ignore—all jabbering about when van Gogh cut off his ear or some such—I could not resist working my way back to the beginning to see *Irises* again. There was two other paintings of irises in the show, both of irises in vases, both fine, but this one was especially glorious, and I spent the most time appreciating it, glowing at the good fortune that temporarily brought me and this painting together. I was especially pleased to discover that it belonged to the Joan Whitney Payson Gallery of Art at Westbrook College in Portland, Maine, not far north of here, and I looked forward to visiting it again and again. Little did I know it was soon to disappear from public view. When I finally left the exhibit I was delighted to discover that the Museum had made this painting into a poster. Unlike some of van Gogh's more fiery and three-dimensional works, this one looks quite fine in poster form. I was so delighted I bought one framed which gave me the added pleasure of trying to get a large framed poster home on a rainy March day, including an airplane trip.

Van Gogh considered the painting of "some violet irises" a "study," done more perhaps as an exercise than intended as a work of art. In the excellent catalog written by Ronald Pickvance for the exhibit in New York, the "friezelike close-up" is described as "an obsessively claustrophobic examination of a fragment of nature [that] would seem to echo van Gogh's own decreed confinement." When *Irises* was first displayed publicly, in September 1889, one critic, Félix Fénéon, had a stronger reaction: "The 'Irises' violently slash their petals to pieces upon swordlike leaves." One gets a sense in most evaluations of van Gogh's work that critics seek the disturbed state of the artist in every painting. I did not find it in *Irises*, to me a remarkably free and harmonious expression. But then, perhaps my sense of joy is influenced by the subject of the painting. No one seems to consider *Irises* among the greatest of van Gogh's works. Certainly it does not have the impact of his passionate statements, such as *Starry Night* or *Cypresses*. Certainly *Irises* is quite different from most of his work. But *Irises* is about irises, and it is glowing and glorious. As van Gogh said about another subject, "great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." In this picture the "small things" are irises, and the result is great.

Only one of van Gogh's paintings was sold in his lifetime, and that fetched about \$80 in current U.S. dollars. Now his "studies" are breaking all records.

The highest price ever paid for a work of art, prior to the sale of *Irises*, was the \$39.9 million paid in March, 1986, for another van Gogh painting, *Sunflowers*. Before that the next highest price paid for a work of art was \$11 million. What is next?

Sadly, my dreams of going to visit *Irises* in Portland are dashed. In fact, I don't know where to go even in principle. *Sunflowers* was purchased by Yasuo Goto, president of the Yasuda Insurance Company in Tokyo, who was subsequently reprimanded by his country's finance ministry for an "imprudent waste of funds" that might "fuel inflationary psychology" and encourage "anti-Japanese feelings." Wisely, in this context, the purchaser of *Irises* has kept his or her identity, even country, anonymous.

It is reasonable to worry that when people spend this much money on a work of art, the repercussions may be unfortunate? Will there ever again be a major exhibition of van Gogh's work, collected from around the world? Will museums, or individuals, be willing to loan and transport their works of art for shows in the future? Will anyone insure such shows, and if so at what cost? Will other museums feel they must sell works to private collectors to finance their operating expenses? When the prices of irreplaceable treasures, such as art or land, become too high, people often do foolish, irreversible things with the treasures, such as converting cow pastures and apple orchards to condominiums.

Irises was purchased by Mrs. Payson in 1947 for \$80,000. The inflation to \$53.9 million seems immense but it required "only" an annually compounded interest of 17.7%. Mrs. Payson, collector of art and owner of the New York Mets, hung *Irises* over her fireplace. It was inherited by John Payson from his mother, and it has been displayed at the Gallery at Westbrook College since 1976. Incidentally, this small liberal arts college will receive \$6.1 million from the sale, an amount, scarcely more than 10% of the proceeds, which will triple the college's endowment!

In contrast to paintings, the irises we buy and sell have resisted the ravages of inflation remarkably well. For example, in a 1929 catalog of Glen Road Iris Gardens, which Grace Sturtevant distributed on the eve of the Great Depression, the price of irises ranged from 25¢ to \$40, with new or relatively new irises carrying prices of \$10 to \$25. The only iris above \$25 was GRACE STURTEVANT, a rich velvety dark red Mr. Bliss named in 1926 for this hybridizer who was to win the AIS Gold Medal in 1935. I would dearly love to be able to buy some of the irises listed in this 1929 catalog—such as YLO for \$1, ELAINE for \$5, PEARL BLUE and AFTERGLOW for 50¢, and JADU for \$10—not because the prices are lower than current prices but because this is the only catalog I know that has these irises.

In 1929, when a pound of bread averaged 8.8¢ and a half-gallon of milk, delivered, was 28.8¢, irises were very precious to buy. A \$40 iris was worth about \$265 in present-day dollars. Evidently in 1929 the newer irises were bought only by the rich, with estates and gardeners. Incidentally, even in 1930 and 1933, with the Great Depression in full swing, the prices of irises from Glen Road Iris Gardens did not drop. Today, irises are affordable by most



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of us. In comparison to 60 years ago, irises have become a great bargain.

Some inflationary trends in prices for irises have occurred in recent years, at least at auctions in the New England region. For apogons, for example, the price I paid averaged \$3.50 each for 24 plants in 1983 and \$14 each for 8 plants in 1986. At most only a little of this can be accounted for by the choice of plants. Similar increases occurred in the prices for bearded irises, so that by 1986 many rhizomes were auctioned at or above catalog prices. It is my impression that prices stabilized in 1987, although one iris at our auctions brought \$45. The record for this area occurred last September at an auction held by the Arnold Arboretum, where four varieties of *I. pseudacorus* brought \$235!

In relation to the sale of van Gogh's 1889 introduction, we did have one remarkable experience in our Region that indicates how much we value classic irises. I was reading some volumes of *Iris Chronicles*, a wonderful compendium of information about older hybridizers and hybrids made by Harriet Segesseemann and her colleagues. In one of them I discovered a letter by Frederic Megson written in 1969, generously offering to share his collection of heirloom diploid irises that he was using in his studies of iris genetics. The list in his letter included several Grace Scurtevant introductions I had been avidly seeking. In spite of the lapse of seventeen years, I wrote to Dr. Megson. It turned out that he had been studying diploid irises since 1958, but was about to send most of them "to the compost heap." Miraculously my letter "came at a most opportune time," and through his generosity I became

"treasurer" of some very special irises, culled by collectors as the best of the diploids. Dr. Megson generously sent large quantities of some cultivars, and I took the "extras" to our Region I Auction, where they fetched the highest prices in the 1986 auction and brought in a total of \$405. One set of four clones of *I. pallida*—apparently the subject of van Gogh's study—brought \$39.50. This is admittedly not as good as van Gogh's *pallida* achieved, but then these were single rhizomes and were not in bloom.

I must admit that I am not in favor of inflating iris prices, especially at auctions. The goal of auctions is, or should be, to share our favorite flower with our friends, and especially to extend the joy to new growers. These goals are defeated, if not worse, when we sell irises at auction at or even above catalog prices. The goals are enhanced if an auction is a picnic where old friends make new friends, where lots of irises are sold at bargain prices with lots of fine extras, especially to new growers. If the treasury swells a little, good, but that should always be secondary to the sharing. Such a picnic-like auction was a major factor in drawing my wife and me into the world of irises. Should we, however, wish to make more profit at our auction, we could learn from Sotheby's sale of *Irises*: in the future we should auction not wrinkled brown roots but rather clumps of irises in full flower. It may be more difficult, but the evidence indicates that the rewards are about a million-fold greater.

Recently, perhaps misguidedly as many readers of this Bulletin will agree, the U.S. Congress named the thorny rose as our National Flower. Did anybody ever pay \$53.9 million for a rose?

It is too bad that the buyer of *Irises* is anonymous. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone who appreciates irises so much as a member of AIS? If he or she would pay so dearly for an 1889 iris, imagine what she or he would pay for an exciting new introduction!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION

October 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF:

George Beams (TX)
The Iris Society of Dallas (TX)

Myron C. Beard (OH)
Akron Area Iris Society (OH)

Lucienne Brooks (CA)
Dolores T. Denney (KS)

Mrs. W. D. (Dovie) Brady (TX)
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Rockwell, Jr.
(TX)
Leon and Edith Wolford (TX)

Grace Brown (IL)
Prairie Iris Society (IL)

Helen Brown (TX)
Ellene Rockwell (TX)

Dr. John S. Burleigh (NE)
Elkhorn Valley Iris Society (NE)
Iris Friends (NE)
Don and Mary Peterson (NE)

Ila L. Crawford (OK)
Nell and Glenn Corlew (CA)
Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Stayer (OK)

John Dyer (OK)
Dorothy C. Howard (OK)

Henry Danielson (NM)
The Aril Society International

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Bausch (WI)
Marie Caillet (TX)
Dorothy C. Howard (OK)
Ellene Rockwell (TX)
Leon and Edith Wolford (TX)

Barbara W. Edinger (CA)
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Wesley R. Goss (IN)
Northeastern Indiana Iris Society
(IN)

Hazel Greiner (MI)
Grand Valley Iris Society (MI)

Helene Hawkinson (MI)
Grand Valley Iris Society (MI)

Frederic Jacobs (CT)
Connecticut Iris Society (CT)
Region I, AIS

Dr. Odell Julander (UT)
Region 12, AIS

Kay Keating (MI)
Grand Valley Iris Society (MI)

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Region 4, AIS

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Northern Illinois Iris Society (IL)

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Region 1, AIS

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The Iris Society of Dallas (TX)

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Leon and Edith Wolford (TX)

S. August Phillips (CA)
The Aril Society International

Raymond A. (Rex) Rich (CA)
The Aril Society International
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Bernice R. Roe (CA)
Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)
Nell and Glenn Corlew (CA)
Mt. Diablo Iris Society (CA)
Region 14, AIS

Pete Rosenbaum (CA)
Redwood Iris Society (CA)

Mrs. Jeannette (Jen) Shivers (CT)
Connecticut Iris Society (CT)
Region 1, AIS

William D. (Bill) Simon (MI)
Richard T. Pettijohn (NE)

David B. Sindt (IL)
Bob Brooks (CA)

Murray D. Smith (CAN)
Verna Laurin (CAN)

Mona Stipp (CA)
Richard T. Pettijohn (NE)
Redwood Iris Society (CA)

Jack Weber (PA)
Delaware Valley Iris Society (PA)

Thomas M. Wilkes (NV)
The Aril Society International

Mrs. Mary Etna Williams (AR)
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Butler
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Breakdown of Iris Registrations

Allen Harper (Kansas)

The accompanying table shows the iris registrations for the years 1980-1987. With the exception of 1984, annual registrations show a gradual increase. In certain classes, an irregular pattern of registrations may be noted. This is occasioned primarily by the entries of hybridizers new to the registration process coupled with the demise or retirement of some class specialists.

It would be difficult to compare these results with the tabulation of registrations from 1939 to 1979, mainly because new classes have been introduced since those years and separation of types according to modern terminology would be all but impossible.

RECAP OF IRIS REGISTRATIONS—1980-1987

CLASS	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	Per Cent of Total
TB	275	326	323	348	403	354	384	379	52.38
BB	26	18	24	29	24	26	28	15	3.59
IB	10	22	25	18	21	32	21	21	3.19
SDB	101	79	90	65	78	74	85	54	13.65
MDB	19	17	25	12	20	11	21	11	2.55
MTB	18	5	11	7	9	15	9	18	1.73
Aril	13	21	7	8	16	9	24	8	1.99
ARBD	35	20	28	43	30	43	26	26	4.63
LA	37	25	39	44	45	40	29	39	5.86
SIB	18	18	24	29	37	23	27	29	3.22
CA	18	18	14	19	14	23	23	39	3.03
JAP	4	39	10	17	24	12	16	11	2.50
Spu	2	10	10	8	14	15	5	9	1.36

Other types in numbers too small to include

Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

WINNING WORKERS 1988 YOUTH AWARDS

It is always a pleasure to introduce some of the outstanding youth members who work hard to keep the American Iris Society a "growing" group. This year's group is no exception. Topping the list as the 1988 winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement is Beth Bowman. Beth has been honored as a runner-up the previous three years, and each year the list of her iris accomplishments has grown.

Beth lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Edmond Iris Society, Sooner State Iris Society, and Oklahoma Iris Society, as well as Region 22. Beth has inherited her enthusiasm for irises from a family of iris lovers. She started entering iris shows at age four. Now 15, she is already an old hand at competition and has garnered many awards in both the horticultural and artistic divisions. She also has received five bronze medals for the educational exhibits she has prepared for local shows. Beth has researched problems with growing iris in her own garden and used that as the subject for science projects at school.

Like our previous youth winners, Beth is a contributor to our society. She has helped with all aspects of the local show, including serving as co-chairman. She is always eager to talk to visitors about irises at the show and sale. At the local sale, she has assisted with publicity, waited on customers, answered questions, and participated in the "nitty-gritty" of preparing rhizomes for the sale.

Beth continues to expand her iris horizons by studying to become an AIS judge and dabbling in some hybridizing. Her hybridizing goal is to develop a round and fluffy aqua iris with a pink border. Let's cheer her on in this and her other iris endeavors.

Shelly Moller of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the first runner-up this year. This thirteen year old has maintained her own garden for six years. Stalks from her garden have helped her win many prizes in the local and Region 20 shows, including four Queen of Show for youth, four Best Arrangement of Show for youth and one Best Arrangement of Show in the adult class.

Shelly is another worker. She helps as a clerk and member of the set-up and clean-up committees of the local show. She also participates in almost every aspect of the local rhizome sale, including donating irises from her garden. Along with fellow youth members of the Elmohr Iris Society, she produced a video of an iris tour which won an Educational Exhibit Award and is now available to other youth groups in AIS. Shelly is now writing a newsletter for the local youth group and looking forward to continuing her iris activities.

Fifteen year old Louise Anne Watson of Milledgeville, Georgia, is the second runner-up. Lou Anne joined AIS in kindergarten and has entered the artistic and horticultural divisions of the Oconee Valley Iris Show every year. She has accumulated quite a few miles traveling to shows outside her area and visiting other gardens in Region 5.

A willing helper with the local show and sale, Lou Anne has used these occasions to interest others in joining AIS. She has shared not only her enthusiasm and knowledge, but also her plants, to attract new members. Lou Anne has helped educate the public about irises by appearing on TV to promote the local show and arranging for an AIS judge to share iris knowledge with her science class.

Let's all join in congratulating these outstanding youth winners. Not only are they winners in the show ring, but they are all "behind the scenes" winners. They have the enthusiasm and energy to help with shows, sales, and other activities that bring our favorite flowers and our society in front of the public eye.

An Iris Should Get the Dykes Medal the Old Fashioned Way— It Should Earn It

H. L. Ames (Utah)

Our system of awards is based entirely on performance in the garden. By performing over a specified period of time in different locations and under varying climatic conditions, any hybrid rhizomatous iris may bear the awards of the American Iris Society leading to eligibility for the British Iris Society award of the Dykes Medal.

The specified period of time is the only arbitrary element in the eligibility factors, but ample time is allowed. Performing in different locations and under varying climatic conditions are a matter of distribution which in turn is the result of the hybridizer's enterprise. In that manner hybridizers help their irises earn the various awards leading to and including the Dykes Medal.

The factors of specified minimum votes can be construed as arbitrary unless one considers them also to be functions of performance and distribution as I do. An iris should be seen and evaluated by a sufficient number of competent judges to eliminate any consideration of bias.

The iris is probably the most highly hybridized flower in the entire world. Countless thousands of seedlings are evaluated every year by professionals and amateurs alike, and hundreds of these seedlings are introduced into the market place. How can the unwary purchasers of these introductions be assured of getting their money's worth? Or, perhaps more importantly, can the purchaser be assured that the irises bought this year are any different (preferably better in some way) from those purchased in previous years? They can

trust the hybridizer or wait until the irises win awards. Hybridizers build their reputations upon the awards their irises win.

At \$25, many are going for \$30, \$35, and occasionally more for new introductions, the awards system takes on enormous meaning. Perhaps the awards system should be more stringent. Or, perhaps our AIS judges should apply the present system more strictly. The fact that no iris garnered the required recognition this past year to earn the Dykes Medal Award and that only three irises earned an Award of Merit may be an omen. Maybe our judges did not see sufficient improvement and distinction in current contenders to merit awards. I prefer to believe that to be the case.

Each successive category in the awards progression requires that those irises chosen to proceed be distinctly better than those left behind. To arrive at the pinnacle of achievement is a distinction indeed. Shouldn't it be earned?

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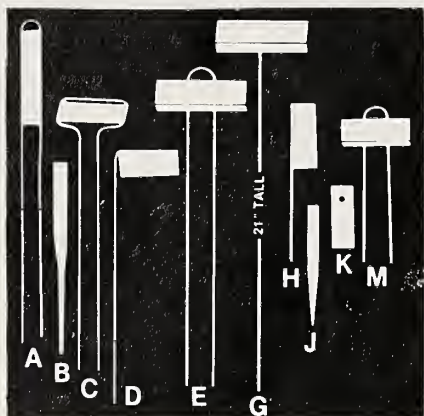
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ADVERTISERS THIS ISSUE

Aura	9	Paw Paw Everlast	34
Borbeleta Gdn.	9	P & S Porcelains	31
Calendula	8	Redbud Lane Iris	31
Evergreen Labels	32	Schultz Company	33
Iris Pond	32	Richard Tasco	33
Kansas Rainbow	32		

The Iris in the Perennial Border

Peggy Estes (Oklahoma)

Landscape architects have a different approach to growing irises than an irisarian does. They like sweeps of color, for instance; not one forsythia but three planted together and repeated in at least four places; a solid edging of liriope or petunias. They choose three or five colors of iris to repeat in clumps throughout the borders. The effect is beautiful at first sight, but then when you really look, the constant repetition becomes monotonous, especially to a horticulturist and collector. Our ideas are so different! I have several good friends who are landscape designers who certainly don't approve of my approach, but they seem to become engrossed when visiting my garden in trying to recognize unknown beauties growing in the borders.

When I first had my own garden, I was determined to do it as correctly as I could with limited resources. Many good books were available at the library, and I read all of them. Most weren't written for Oklahoma but for climates like England and New England or California. So, my dreams were filled with visions of delphiniums, lupines, and primroses. Pictures and plans of those gorgeous English perennial borders formed my ideal. After forty some years I am still trying to achieve that ideal but certainly far from successfully.

In the meantime, I have become a collector and plantaholic trying endlessly to grow everything at least once. My major collections are daffodils, irises, daylilies, and minor collections of small bulbs, true lilies, azaleas, hostas, peonies, and tulips. I even collected hollies, wildflowers, and native cactus at one time, but the need for more space for perennials eliminated several hollies, growing shade took out the cactus planting and a small collection of roses, and my need for one more spot for a new iris is fast eliminating the sunny wildflowers.

Since I live on a city lot, space has become very precious to me. I resist very firmly the idea of growing anything in rows; so all of my flower beds are truly perennial borders with everything planted to enhance the other. Our lawns in front and back are miniscule but still form a nice green against the borders. I overplant the bermuda with rebel fescue in the fall so my lawn is a bright green when the daffodils and tulips are in bloom.

My goal is to create the illusion that the whole garden is in bloom in early spring, late spring, summer, and fall. This isn't easy because practically everything is more or less permanent. Parks and large gardens are able to replace large sweeps of plants that have finished blooming with other blooming plants that have been grown in greenhouses. This the average gardener cannot do. I do plant about a thousand tulips all around the edges of my borders each fall and dig them in late spring when the foliage matures. I plant them in clumps so they look as though they are permanent, then I plant various bedding plants for a certain color scheme in the vacant spots. Otherwise, everything stays put. That is until late July and August when I start moving things around trying to create prettier pictures, more successful combinations, and a different effect. This is when I discard plants that don't please me and make room for new acquisitions.



Lupines in Rudolph iris garden in Illinois



Irises and companions in Perkins Garden (Okla.)

My irises are all grown throughout my borders, spaced so it looks as if there is bloom everywhere. In an article in the December, 1987, Horticulture Magazine, Henry Mitchell mentions that peonies don't make a very good companion for irises. Since I space my peonies all through my borders to enhance the irises in bloom at the same time, I don't agree with him on this point. I do use supports on the peonies because it always rains when they are in bloom and those great, wonderful blossoms will be in the mud without support. With the support, the peonies do not crowd the irises. I also allow huge annual poppies to grow among the irises by pulling the lower leaves from the poppies. This allows the two plants to be good companions. Columbine is also self sown throughout the irises which gives a pleasant contrast in color and form. A small blue flower called nemophila is a lovely touch of color with the irises. It blooms through April and May, then dies. New plants come up in the fall and are ready to bloom the next spring. Sweet Rocket (Hesperis) forms a lovely background in purple and white. These self-sow and are easily moved in the early spring. They grow tall, so they should be used only in the background of your iris planting.

I don't like to trim the irises back after they bloom, but it does make for a tidier border, so sometimes I do this if black spot appears. This is caused by the plants around them since they sometimes cut off the air circulation and provide too much shade. Since mine is an older garden, I do have creeping shade from large trees in my neighbors' gardens. A completely sunny border would probably not have this problem, especially if the plants are not too crowded. Someday, I'm going to exercise enough control so that I will not try to grow every iris and daylily which appeals to me. It is best if one chooses the very favorite ones and gives them space to do their best if the border is to be a showplace with many different types of plants. I tend to crowd several into a small area just so I can grow more. I like my borders this way too! All the beautiful color and form is fabulous and the irises blend together harmoniously, so the more colors in one area, the better.

Remember to amend your soil each time you plant something new, because your borders are not like long rows of irises that allow you to remove the plants and rototill the soil, place new fertilizer and humus, and replant in one big operation. Remember, growing irises in the border with other plants is harder, but it is well worth the extra effort. The beauty of all the different types of plants is multiplied, and with careful selection, one plant is resting while another is blooming. Growers in different parts of the country can experiment until they find the plants which are best to grow with the irises in the border. What does well in one climate will not do so well in another. Sometimes I even try to grow delphiniums, lupines, and primroses—all entirely unsuitable in our heat—and sometimes I succeed much to my astonishment. If your space is limited, you love flowers of all kinds, and you especially love irises, try growing a border of mixed flowers. It will reward you with beauty and tell you much about the adaptability of some varieties of irises.



IRISES AMONG PERENNIALS IN
LORETTA AARON GARDEN IN OKLAHOMA



Stars During An Outstanding Season

Rachel Drumm (Oklahoma)

After the disaster that was the 1987 season, it was great to see almost everything bloom well during the 1988 season. The following are those irises which excelled when everything in the garden was as good as it could be.

As a long time fan of Stepping Out, it takes an outstanding plicata to catch my attention. This year Jigsaw (Gaulter) and Momentum (Mary Dunn) overshadowed my old favorite. Jigsaw has blue stands and white falls with specks of purple and a purple edge. Momentum is a bi-color plic with the stands marked with light blue and the falls marked with violet. I like the stalks on this one as much as I like the form.

Hindenberg (Maryott) succeeded where many others of this color class do not. It managed to maintain its color and form throughout its life. The brilliant orange color attracted attention from across the garden. Two bright golds also gave weeks of brilliance. Both are Ghio irises. Gold Country which is a deep gold, and Speculator, which is more yellow gold, were displayed on fine stalks with good branching.

Describing the depth of color on Pink Rose (Hamblen) is impossible. It is one of those which has to be seen to be believed. The stands are rose pink, and the falls are hot, hot pink. The stalks were shorter than some people might want, but the color was second to none. Gay Motif (O. Brown) is not new, but the pink stands over orchid pink falls still makes this one a garden gem.

Black Hills Gold (O. Brown) may not be what one expects after seeing the name. It is not gold colored, but is an apricot blended yellow with all good characteristics. Candlegleam (Keppel) has yellow stands with apricot influence and cream colored falls set off with a red beard.

My favorite dark toned iris for the year was Evening Velvet (Innerst). It is a velvet-looking dark purple. Magic was probably my favorite new color for the year. This Hager introduction is an orchid pink with quite a blue influence to it. The crowning touch is the almost purple beard, giving the effect of a pink with a blue violet beard. While it was not a plic of violet and white like most of my favorites, Round Table (Ghio) made the list as one of my all time favorite plicatas. It has brown stands and gold falls with a brown stitching on the edge. It was outstanding in every way.

Liaison (Ghio) has pink stands and purple falls with a pink rim. On the falls is a pattern of lines which some might call distracting. I did not find them offensive, and in fact, I felt they added to the novelty of this flower. Cruzin (Mary Dunn) is also a novelty with basic color of dark violet blue with a fancy pattern of white applied evenly on the falls. Some white on the midribs of the standards adds to the overall beauty. Hula Dancer (Shoop) is in a class by itself with purple brown standards and buff toned falls. The shade of the falls is deep, so it is not close to being white.

Edge of Winter (Schreiner) is the best of the reverse blue amoenas as it

blooms for me. The contrast is clean and sharp, and the form of the flower is great. Designer Gown (Ghio) is described in most catalogs as pink grape. It gives the effect of a pink toned iris, but I don't know exactly what to call the color. Whatever the color, this was one of the best all around performers in the garden with its well branched stalks, beautifully formed flowers, multi-budded stalks, good substance, and long bloom season. Vision in Pink (V. Wood) was an outstanding pink variety which gave a long season of bloom.

Toastmaster (Ghio) is a new color of reddish copper and brown blended. It has been described as toasted melon. Whatever that is, I like the color. Latin Hideaway (Nichols) has been among my favorites for two years. It has lavender stands with wine red falls with an influence of tan. It is a prolific bloomer. Many flowers are available with yellow and white combinations, but I never tire of them. Eastertime (Schreiners) is my all time favorite in the class. It has soft yellow stands and white falls with a precise edging of the same soft yellow. It is outstanding.

Snowbrook (Keppel) is a white iris that is definitely white, and that white is set off by a tiny blue rim on the petal edges. It is good and it is different from anything else. Perhaps the very best iris of the year was Heritage Lace (Schreiners). Its big, broad flowers are heavily laced and borne on strong, well-branched stalks. The flower is perfectly named. It is the color of aged lace. The color is actually cream, but when you see it, I'm sure you'll agree that the Schreiners came up with the perfect name for this nearly perfect flower.

When this article was started, the idea was to limit it to a discussion of twenty varieties. That number has already been surpassed, and a review of the season quickly brings to mind the names of many others which could have been included. The season in Oklahoma was one of the best in years, and any list would probably be incomplete. 1987 was the worst bloom season in our history, and 1988 may have been the best. We often ask for a "normal" season, but from now on, I won't be satisfied with a normal season, I want another just like 1988.



Edge of Winter



Gay Motif

Bloom Season in the Tennessee Hills

Phil Williams (Tennessee)

The 1988 bloom season can, without apology, be described as tremendous. The tall bearded season lasted over seven weeks in spite of less than one-fourth inch total rainfall and no irrigation during that period. Cyclonic force winds ripped through for three continuous days during peak bloom, but only a handful of weak stalks bit the dust.

With our drought now in its fourth year, it is a poor decade to be engaged in farming. Summer blooming perennials are taking it on the shins. Somehow, bearded irises this year bloomed more heavily and bore more bloomstalks than in recent years. Low bud count was one area severely affected by the low moisture levels.

ADVENTURESS (Hamblen '85) was a beauty with a pink/lavender blouse and violet to purple hooped skirt! Wide branching, nine buds, rust to orange beards and an irritating tendency to overbloom on established clumps. ALEXIS (R. Nelson '87) is a bright strawberry (?) pink with slight and attractive haft decorations in wine which nearly disappear by the second day. ALL STAR (B. Dunn '86), believe it or not, is even wider than Blue Maxx. Wide, large, flaring, lovely, vigorous and with lovely foliage! ALL THAT JAZZ (Dennery '82) remains a favorite with garden visitors—proof that a floriferous, healthy plant demands respect, even among the very newest introductions. AMBER BEAUTY (Schreiners '82) decided to really show off this year! Tall, robust, pretty gold/amber/yellow with branching and seven buds. A yummy color. AMERICAN SWEETHEART (Sexton '83) still remains in the garden for its color impact is unmatched! It is hafty, but the well branched stalks with seven buds display flowers with pale gold standards and near BLACK falls. A good grower, too. ANNA BELLE BABSON (Hager '85) grows a bit "spread eagle" on established plants but it does not fall over! Tremendous branching, husky growth, perfection in form and deep, intense pink flowers not soon to be forgotten! AZTEC TREASURE (R & L Miller '84) is like no other. A deep yellow and chrome yellow bitone with pale honey overlay on the falls.

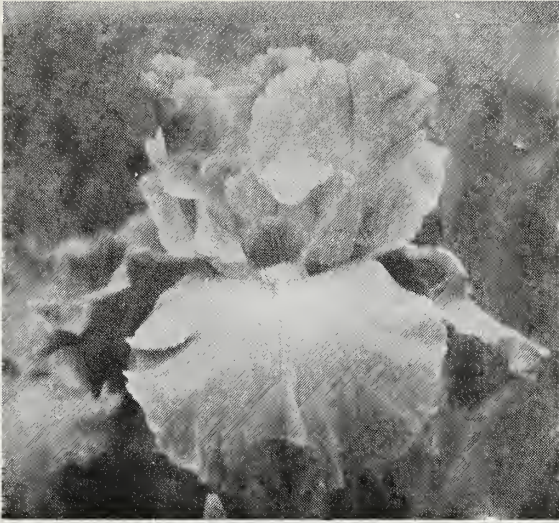
BALLAD OF DIXIE (Burch '83) never disappoints me! Crisp form, husky



Aztec Treasure



Bernice Roe



Blended Frills



Chapel Bells

plant, good branching, buds and dependable performance year after year. One of Jim's best! BALLERINA BLUE (Innerst '86) seems to be the best of many reverse blue near-amoenas. Large flowers on strong, superbly branched stalks soar above the less boisterous. A wonderful grower and performer and delightful plant that needs no pampering. BATIK (Ensminger '86) is the largest flowered and most vigorous grower among the variegated innovations of this Nebraska hybridizer. Stalks consistently have 7-9 buds. Hats off to a persistent plant breeder in developing this novel color pattern! BERNICE ROE (Maryott '86) is my favorite from this breeder. Ruffled, flaring flowers have almost white standards and the falls are clear yellow. Good branching, a healthy plant that grows with ease and a fitting namesake for a very special irisarian. BLACK HILLS GOLD (O. Brown '86) has such pretty flowers, wide branching, clean foilage . . . but too few buds. BLENDED FRILLS (O. Brown '86) is indescribable! My memories of Amethyst Flame are subtly revealed in this flower, yet there are additional colorations. The wide, flaring flowers open one at the time on branched stalks with 7 buds. A sensational clump! BLUES SINGER (Gaulter '84) is in deep blue. It is vigorous, well branched and my favorite of recent Gaulter introductions. BOOGIE MAN (Meek '86) is deep, dark purple with gorgeous, ruffled form. The sooty dark flowers do not burn and are produced by healthy plants. BOY OH BOY (Ghio '86) is a real showout in the BB class, usually taller than its registration. It is the easiest grower among the white with gold "wire rimmed" edges; the red beards do not detract. BREAKERS (Schreiners '86) is another lovely fluted, ruffled, vigorous, floriferous blue creation. A real standout and I can hardly believe that such a gorgeous, quality iris might rebloom! Top notch. BUBBLING SEAS (R&L Miller '85) is lighter and the falls are more violet than most recent amoenas (a pale bitone??). There is charming rippling and pleating in the falls. Fine growth.

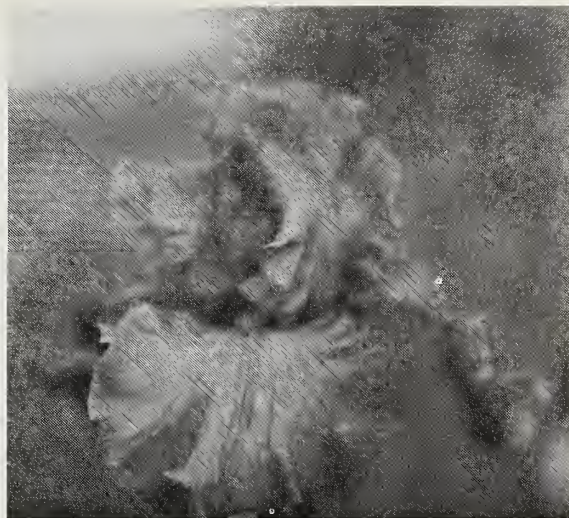
CAFE SOCIETY (Ghio '85) is cleaner in color than Joe's PRALINE. It has strong stalks with good branching and the flowers have pretty form. It also has bigger foilage than most from this line. I like it. CALIFORNIA CLASSIC (M. Dunn '86) has copper standards and falls that are more violet than HILOW. There is more branching, more buds (7 +), wonderful growth and great color

impact. CANDLE GLEAM (Keppel '87) fairly *glows* in the garden! The falls gracefully dip and the beards are surrounded with shafts of light. Great branching, nine buds and a fine garden plant! CARELESS (Spahn '85) is paler than most, but is a most attractive rosy orchid with great vigor. CHAPEL BELLS (Meek '82) always grows and performs. A big flower with branched stalks that never fall over. It is among this breeder's best. CHRISTA (R. Nelson '85) is not large, but flowers are consistently produced on stalk after well-branched stalk in pretty pink; red-orange beards. Vigorous and dependable. CINDERELLA'S COACH (Hager '86) is not a deep orange like ORANGE STAR, but it is the best formed, most ruffled orange yet! Large flowers, strong, well-branched stalks and pretty foliage—most unusual in this color class. CLOUD FIRE (B. Brown '83) is noted for its exceptional branching in the red-bearded white class; seven buds. COCKTAIL HOUR (Dunn '84) is a ruffled, wonderfully formed blue-violet with lots of flowers, superbly branched stalks, outstanding growth and clean foliage that STAYS that way! CODICIL (Innerst '87) gets better every year. Palest blue flowers with practically BLACK beards! Seven buds, fine branching, vigorous and pretty foliage. A remarkable breeding achievement and finest of this type. CONTRITE (Innerst '87) is the laciest, pale pearl imaginable, and it won't be missed! Exceptional branching, flaring form and great vigor make for an outstanding creation! COPPER GLAZE (Hamblen '86) is a muted gold to mustard coloring with rusty haft brushings and deep, brown to cinnamon beards. A vigorous border bearded with seven buds and personality plus! CORAL BEADS (Niswonger '82) is not the newest in this series of peach pink amoenas, but it is my favorite. It is essentially white with peach pink blushing on the falls but it grows tall, does not blow over, has large flowers with adequate buds, reliable plant growth and very special garden effect. CRUZIN (Dunn '87) has class! The lavender-white sprays radiating from the beards really getcha! Darker than STELLAR LIGHTS, I could find no faults in this creation. The kind of iris I always hoped would bloom in my seedling patch. CURRENT IMAGE (Ev. Kegerise '84) is not bright, but the yellow standards and orchid-lilac falls are crimped with lace and are carried on fine stalks with plenty of buds. Not as dark as LET'S DANCE, but it gets highest ratings in the growth department. CUSTOM MADE (O. Brown '81) is not the newest nor the most vigorous, but its deep, glowing, intense pink coloring has not been equaled. The stalks, though not bountiful, are well branched with seven buds. Long bloom season, too.

The best formed of all recent blacks is DARKSIDE (Schreiners '85). Clearly showing its TITAN'S GLORY lineage, the plant and growth habits are also exemplary. DESIGNER GOWN (Ghio '85) has gorgeous flowers in pink and pinkish orchid; too bad there are only 5 buds. DREAM ON (Michel '85) is another one that needed more buds, but the form of the flower was quite good. It is an unusual blending of yellow and white—the *inside* of the standards being completely white! DRESDEN DELIGHT (Hummel '88) was such a pretty pastel chartreuse yellow. It has branching, lovely chiseled form and is a fine addition in a scarce color class. After the California convention need I say more about DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiners '86)? *Gigantic*, sultry, silky rich purple with excellent foliage and plant habits.



Edith Wolford

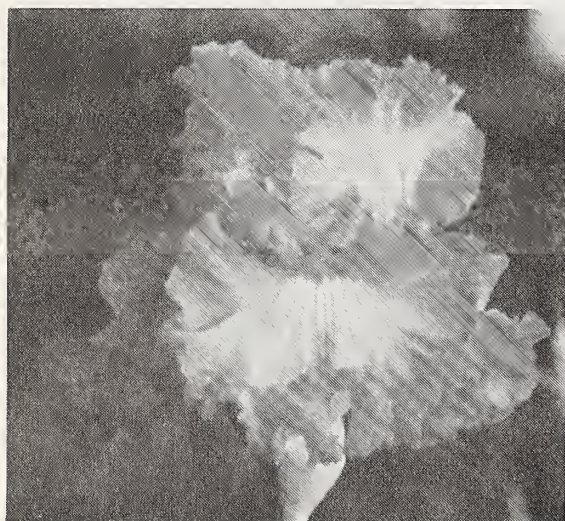


Ever After

EASTER A' DAWNING (Slade '82) is bright! Dull yellow standards top muted violet falls. Not perfect flower form but bright and floriferous. EASTER SONG (V. Wood '85) is the best branched pink in the garden; the pink flowers are also of finest quality. While at the Wood garden two years ago, we saw his new VISION IN PINK under seedling number. We ordered it but received a substitution. EDGE OF WINER (Schreiners '83) may be a bit tight branched to suit some, but it is a pretty thing in strange flushes and stains of white, lavender and blue. Good plant, too. EDITH WOLFORD (Hager '86) is almost as lovely as its namesake! Clear coloring, pleated ruffling, branching, buds, vigorous plant and oh, so pretty! ELECTRABRITE (O. Brown '83) is another fine example of Opal's skills as a plant breeder. Lace, fluting, ruffles and deep pink color that pulsates from across the garden. ELECTRIC AVENUE (R. Nelson '89) is another new creation with gigantic flowers that are finely formed in a shade of "electric" deep blue; gorgeous foliage. ELECTRIC HORSEMAN (Gartman '82) is not a heavy increaser and not generously budded, but there is nothing like its electric blue coloring. Orange beards are tipped with this same bright violet blue color. EMBELLISHMENT (Innerst '86) is pink with deep orange and apricot shadings. The whole affair is covered in lace. The stalks are not tall but are uncommonly branched for this healthy creation that appears orange from across the garden. ENCHANTING (Hamblen '87) has super thick petals and tremendous branches! A most intense combination of colors and this lovely apricot and violet bicolor has equally lovely foilage. EVELYN'S ECHO (Ev. Kegerise '85) is among the most outstanding of recent introductions. Strong, well branched stalks carry gorgeously formed flowers of darkest navy with hints of violet. Plenty of buds, superb growth and one that will not disappoint you! EVER AFTER (Keppel '86) is another to be termed "outstanding." There are no faults, and this deep, intense fuschia rose surpasses the intensity of MULLED WINE. It grows splendidly. EVERYTHING PLUS (Niswonger '84) is my favorite SPINNING WHEEL derivative. It has lovely purple-based foilage, fine plant characteristics and great garden impact. Deeper coloring than most in this color pattern and top notch here for three years. EXCITATION (R. Nelson '89?) is the finest red variegata I have seen. Ruffled, lacy, flaring flower with outstanding form. The vigorous plants

have well branched stalks and consistently present 7-9 buds. Very nice. EXHILIRATION (Ghio '84) is a gorgeous, lacy salmon pink. Just not enough buds. EXTRAVAGANT (Hamblen '83) blooms a bit heavier than I prefer, but it has wide amethyst violet flowers that are loaded with ruffles and lace. An indescribable flower with impressive branching!

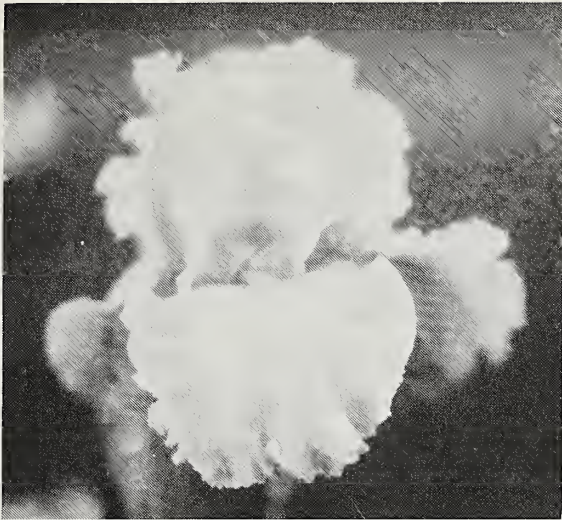
FANCY FACE (M. Dunn '86) has that superb rounded form that I like so well! There are oodles of buds, unbelievable branching and lush foliage with lots of increase. A fine creation with personality and good perennial qualities. FASHION ARTISTE (Schreiners '84) gets no rave on flower form or color intensity, but it does grow like a weed. If only we could combine its hyperactive growth with some of those beautiful weaklings! Yet, this variety is a favorite of garden visitors every year! Vigorous, well branched and adequate bud count. FEED-BACK (Hager '83) is a completely dependable rebloomer for us and we think it deserves more attention. Blue-violet in color . . . but it usually blooms off and on all summer; form is better than most remontants. FIESTA TIME (Schreiners '86) has attractive, yet somewhat loose flower form, but a definite improvement over PEKING SUMMER. I rather like the white flushes on the gold standards—makes an interesting contrast with the wine-red to red-brown falls. FIRST IMPRESSION (Gatty '85) is a beautifully ruffled, true cream. The flower form is fabulous, there are seven buds minimum, plant growth is outstanding, and the lavishly ruffled flowers radiate deeper yellow rays from within. FLASHDANCE (Roderick '86) not only has perfect border bearded proportion, but it is the deepest ever violet flower to sport *bright red* beards! This inexpressibly pretty flower has equally super foilage and plant habits. FOOLISH HEART (Spahn '85) grew strangely short this year, but the huge cream flowers were so ruffled and pretty, and the pale violet fall blushes added to its attractiveness. FORTUNATA (Ghio '86) is among the most colorful creations in the garden. Tall stalks do have a tough time in 40 mph winds! FRANCES GAULTER (Hamblen '83) is bright, well branched, has adequate bud count and could be termed sensational were it not for such smallish growth. The foliage is healthy, and it is uncanny that such husky stalks and big, gorgeous flowers could rise from intermediate-sized plants.



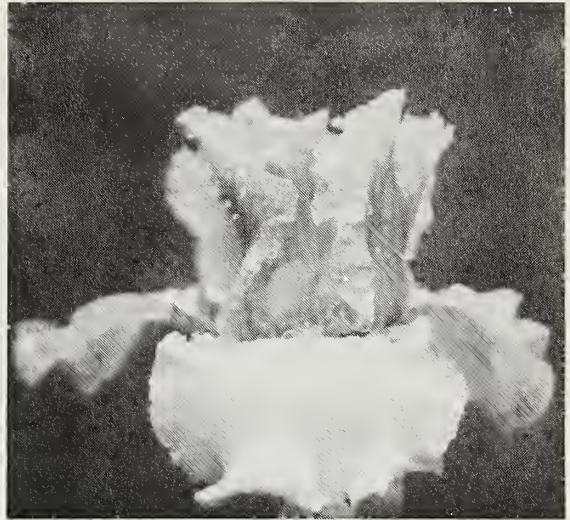
Speculator



Latin Rock



Heritage Lace



Hula Dancer

GAY MOTIF (O. Brown '82) increases at a snail's pace, but its bright azalea pink coloring that blends and bleeds to purple in the falls is a one-of-a-kind combination. GAY MYSTIQUE (Dunn '84) never has quite enough buds here either, but otherwise is superior to both its parents. The near white standards dance above rosy magenta falls . . . and the plant is wonderful! GEE GOLLY (Blaylock '86) is a pretty lavender blue flower with deep orchid beards. This one does not fall over like its relative, though its standards are more open. Pretty coloration, tremendously branched stalks and a fine plant. GENTLE EDITH (Sparling '86) was paler than I anticipated, yet the flower was pleasantly flaring. A fine effort from a new hybridizer. GIGOLO (Keppel '84) has a rather daring name, but in reality it is a notable achievement in plant breeding—a new color patterning of canteloupe and raspberry! Narrow foliage, heavy bloom, tight branching, seven buds, and I like it. GOLD COUNTRY (Ghio '87) is bright indeed, deeper than SPECULATOR, and we are hoping it will prove more heavily budded. Good growth. GOLDEN SURREY (Rudolph '85) does not have hafts of spectacular width, but it does grow. The color is intense, lacy chrome yellow with white fall centers and *blue* beards! Six buds but it surely gets your attention! GRECIAN SKIES (O. Brown '84) blooms and overblooms, but it is a pretty light blue with bright tangerine beards. I know of no other iris quite like it.

HAIL TO ROME (R. Nelson '86) is perky and attractive, nobly staying in the border class. This variegata is less intense than in its Nebraska home, and its only fault is its insistence on blooming too heavily. Six buds. HAWAIIAN QUEEN (Shoop '86) is another from George's recent bicolor series. The coloring here is deeper, the crepey flowers have eerily attractive flushes of colors in the standards and the entire color combo is unique and lovely. Seven buds. HEAVEN'S SHORE (Gaddie '86) takes the prize for the finest lacy blue yet! Pretty, ruffled and laced flower with CHARISMA form, yet the vitality of the plant is exceptional. Individual and fine! HERITAGE LACE (Schreiners '86) is a huge, super lacy affair but failed to grow up this spring. The form is not too flaring, but you can count on a tough plant. HIGH FALUTIN (Dunn '84) really was a showoff this year! Gorgeous orchid flower with form, ruffles, branching,

lotsa buds and wonderful performance. I describe it as a full *lavender* self. 1988 was its best performance ever. HIGHLAND HAZE (Keppel '86) is a wonderful grower, though the foliage is not too tall. The flower is of good form and the color patterning unique. It grows a little short here and needs an extra bud or two, but it is one of my pets. HITCHING POST (Innerst '85) has gold standards; cream falls are trimmed in the *reddest* coloring to be seen in irises. The flower is fluted and cannot be overlooked. As with most all of Sterling's creations, you can again count on good growth and heavy bloom. HOLY NIGHT (Mohr '83) is my favorite from this hybridizer. Branched, budded tall stalks carry velvety flowers from DUSKY DANCER ancestry. Good foliage. HULA DANCER (Shoop '85) is the most vigorous of this color series. Purplish brown standards, orange falls and deep tangerine beards are carried on well branched stalks with seven buds. Wow!

IDOL'S DREAM (Kegerise '82) is loaded . . . loaded with buds, large and well formed flowers, fine branching, husky plant—you name it and this outstanding yellow has it. INSTRUCTOR (Innerst '86) is yellow, but the falls are plicated in bright *blue*. Wide form, lovely purple based foliage, bronze beards. Nothing like it! ISLAND GIRL (Shoop '85) is another one with the purplish standards and apricot falls. Oddly, this spring it decided to shift into low gear. It can be a knockout.

KABAKA (Niswonger '87) is in the INDIAN CERAMICS type color pattern but the color is more a muted version of CALIFORNIA CLASSIC. Good growth. KAREN CHRISTINE (Ensminger '85) is not large, nor is the form exceptionally wide, but this free growing plant produces stalk after stalk loaded with uncommonly pretty flowers that are white with flushes and stains of magenta and violet. Fire red beards add to its novel appeal. KATY LYNN (Ev. Kegerise '86) was the first tall bearded to bloom and it kept going for four weeks! *Bright* lemon yellow and the falls lighten in the centers. Well branched, vigorous, showy and one of the top performers this year. Eight to ten buds add up to an outstanding garden iris. KENTUCKY COAL (Slade '85) is sooty dark, wider than its sib STYGIAN NIGHT. The foliage is wide and purple based staying green throughout the season. It was among the blackest in the garden.

LACED JABOT (Gaulter '82) just keeps showing off! *Lacy* orchid pink with pale fall centers and orange beards. LADY FRIEND (Ghio '81) is one tough perennial. Its garnet coloring glows from afar and is desirable despite its years. Healthy plants, too. LAND O' LAKES (Schreiners '82) is hard to fault. Husky, wide branched stalks produce many blue flowers with pretty ruffling. LATIN ROCK (Schreiners '84) demands attention and gets it. The buffy standards are in sharp contrast to the plum falls and the strong, well branched stalks easily carry eight buds. A good garden plant. LEDA'S LOVER (Hager '80) has exceptional branching, seven buds, and is a gorgeously ruffled white with lemon beards, and she never looked better. LESLIE WILLIAMSON (Connally '85) has been a top performer for the past two years. Big flowers on super strong stalks rise from healthy plants en masse. Actually, the entire flower is white with tints of green, yet the standards

are heavily infused violet blue. Much overlooked. LET'S DANCE (R. Nelson '86) is not pale, not bright, but just right! The yellow standards have slight orchid tints while the falls are plum violet. This unique creation is well branched, has perky flower form, but rarely has over six to seven buds. LINGERING LOVE (Meek '86) is the bloomingest plicata in the garden! It is darker here than its registration—a fuschia-orchid and white concoction. Ruffled and laced with an aggravating tendency to loosen its standards the second day. LITTLE MISS (Ensminger '87) is pert and crisp and is done in light blue with darker flecks in mid-violet. Good growth and perfect BB proportion.

MALAGUENA (Ghio '85) is such a scrumptious flower, superbly formed, clean color and good growth. It seems to want to grow all winter and most years suffers damage from late freezes. MARAUDER (Ghio '84) is totally dependable and makes quite a splash of red-maroon coloring. Form is not as spectacular as some of Joe's introductions, but it makes a splash of color, though it is brief. MARIA TORMENA (Ensminger '87) is a not-to-be forgotten girl! This pink/lavender/purple splashed and variegated creation has fine branching, very flaring modern form and good plants. MATINEE IDOL (Hamblen '84) is a *deep* rose violet with deep orange beards. The growth is quite satisfactory, branching is tops, stalks are strong and you cannot forget this beauty. MIDNIGHT FIRE (Niswonger '83) may be Dave's best. This flower is full blue (not violet) and the beards are bushy, dark red. The foliage is super fine; growth habits are faultless; the stalks do not fall over; and it is a swell garden plant. MINSTREL MAN (Meek '86) is stingy with buds, but it is an attractive wine bitone with bronze beards. Dark and pretty. MISSY YORK-TOWNE (Innerst '84) is purely excellent. This one is white, white and it grows and blooms for weeks. Lots of buds, excellent branching, very strong stalks and faultless plants. MODERN STORY (O. Brown '87) is late (a wonderful trait) and beautifully different. On a first year plant the flowers were small but the color is deep strawberry puree heavily tinted with rust. (Opal calls it "brick red"—and it is.) I have never seen a color quite like it and I am hoping that plant growth will improve when acclimated. MOMENTUM (M. Dunn '86) is the most branched iris I have ever seen. Scads of buds, great growth and contrasting blue to violet plicatings on the standards and falls. Unique and near perfect. MONTEVIDEO (Ghio '86) is over 38" here (shucks!), wide branching, hafts that touch, bright orange coloration and we expect bud count to mirror its ancestors. MOONLIGHT DANCE (O. Brown '87) is positively the largest, widest, most spectacular bright yellow yet! Its good growth reminds me of BIG DIPPER and it has great branching and plenty of buds. MOON'S DELIGHT (Hager '85) is very heavily budded, large flowers on excellently branched stalks that do not fall over. It is citrusy lemon in color and has more lace than any such yellow since LIME FIZZ. The flowers are heat proof and are soooo pretty. MORNING SHADOWS (Dunn '82) has always grown like a weed and never failed to spring bloom in spite of late November bloom stalks always freezing out. But this year it was tall, the flowers were huge, the branching was wide, there were eight buds and my garden notation

is “super”. MOUNTAIN VIOLET (Hamner '85) is not only a pretty pink and pastel violet bicolor but is tremendous in every aspect. Completely winter hardy for us and has no bad habits . . . just total loveliness! MUCHAS GRACIAS (Hager '84) is positive proof that Ben's “freebie” is as top notch as his major entrees. This luscious orangy peach consistently has seven buds, lots of ruffles and lace, large flowers and stalks of sensible height. A lovely creation from the master! MUSIC BOX DANCER (Roderick '84) is perfect size and proportion for a border. The perky flowers are beautifully rounded and the orange red beards against the clear aster violet coloration is exciting. Seven buds, too. MY KATIE (Nearpass '87) is a pretty flower. While not huge, its form is pleasantly flaring and the pastel bicolor combo is utterly satisfying. A scrumptious concoction with excellent growth habits.

NANCY GLAZIER (Hamblen '86) is unique with oyster standards tinted pink; matching falls edged in yellow; blue-tipped beards are greyish orange underneath. Branching, seven buds, ruffling and unforgettable. NATURAL BEAUTY (Gartman '84) is a yummy pink with slightly paler falls and orangish beards. Healthy plants, too. NEELO (Ev. Kegerise '84) is out of FULL TIDE and showing it! Paul Bunyan stalks, branching and vigor. NEIL DIAMOND (R. Nelson '87) adds respect to the deep violet color class. It is late and long blooming and excels in every way. Great plant habits, too. NEW KINDA LOVE (Slade '81) is one for fans of LATIN LOVER. The flowers look fragile, but this cream and reddish purple variegata does not burn. Not terribly wide and don't expect leathery petals, but it will take the hottest sun. OBSESSION (R. Nelson '87) reminds me of GLORY BOUND . . . and we think it just may not have the habit of “blooming out”. Tremendous branching, deep rose raspberry color, large and wide flower, clean and wide foliage, plenty of buds and I like it. OH BABE (Anderson '84) is a bit short, but it grows rampantly. The gold standards loudly contrast with the white and red brown plicated falls. This one will be identified from across the garden. OLYMPIC CHALLENGE (Schreiners '85) might be a dandy, but stalks that hit the ground before the first flower opens have little appeal. ORBITER (Aitken '85) is dark, large and husky. It would be a leader in a crowded class if it had a couple more buds. ORIENTAL KNIGHT (Weiler '84) is John's most intense orange yet, but it has fewer buds for us than its predecessors and has only fair branching.

PACESETTER (Mohr '83) has good growth and seven buds, but the stalks are a bit too tall on established clumps. Foliage is large but like many pinks pales to pale green with summer's heat. PEARLS 'N GOLD (O. Brown '84) is a smoky violet here with yellow hafts and petal edges. It is different, vigorous, well branched and has seven buds. PEASANT DANCE (Helsley '85) always stays in class and is a fabulous grower. The buff standards are infused raspberry to violet and the falls are *dark*—plicated with violet over white in effective fashion. Calvin should be getting more recognition. A good variety! PEKING SUMMER (Schreiner '84) can be a color knockout *if* it doesn't fall over, doesn't bloom out and doesn't rot. Curses! PERFECT INTERLUDE (Schreiners '84) on the other hand is well branched, well budded, with quality flowers in yellow (a bitone, not an amoena), long blooming and a wonderfully

healthy plant. PERSIAN GOWN (O. Brown '85) is rich, bright, glowing violet set afire with burnt orange sienna beards. I call it "dark plum violet" and the branching and buds are more than you might imagine. PINK FROTH (Keppel '85) is the best formed of all the pink plicatas we have seen. A quality step forward and it grows well. PINK ROSE (Hamblen '86) is artificially colored with deep, deep synthetic strawberry non-fading dye poured over slightly paler flowers of good size with buds, branching and vigor. A color gem! PLUM NEWS (Rudolph '85) is deeper than CALIFORNIA CLASSIC, and it is not easily missed, but it needs more buds. Slow in the growth department, too. PORCELAIN BALLET (Black '85) is more orange than apricot. The flower is ruffled, the stalks are branched, there are seven buds and I found it most desirable. PRALINE (Ghio '83) is not a bright color, but it is the best grower from Joe's brown line and (cheers!) it has seven buds. One of the dandiest surprises of the season was PURGATORY (Moores '87). Perfect form and oodles of ruffling. Deep golden orange standards are crisply held above wide, reddish brown falls that are edged in the color of the standards. This one dances with color, grows well and is Walter's best yet. Nothing like it!

QUIZ SHOW (Slade '87) does not have flaring form, but the branched and budded stalks have showy flowers with light blue standards and white falls that are plicated in raspberry violet. An eyecatcher.

REBECCA ANN (J.R. Allen '84) is huge! Tall, husky stalks do not fall or blow over and the pale, ruffled blue-white flowers are infused violet on the inside. Unforgettable clumps! RED ALERT (Powell '83) is satisfactorily branched, has seven buds and is the cleanest red flower I have ever seen. It was also the reddest color in the garden this year. Tailored form. RHYTHM ON ICE (Gaddie '85) is essentially a smoky violet over icy blue, but the petal edges are serrated unlike any other. Gold blushes at the halts add to this most unusual flower. RISING MOON (Schreiners '83) has petals so thick they appear to have been chiseled. Slightly open standards but a glowing beauty with wide hafts and rounded falls in yellow. Large, lovely and eight buds. ROLLING THUNDER (Schreiners '85) is lighter than LOYALIST, but I have liked it since seeing it as a seedling. Too bad it is such a timid increaser. ROSECRAFT (Hamblen '86) is another super fine creation from Melba. Deep rose-violet color with the accent on flower form. Lots of ruffles, wonderful vigor, rusty beards and small white fall patches. Eureka! ROSY CLOUD (Keppel '85) produces many stalks per clump with sensible branching. It is pinker than STERLING'S LADYLOVE, but it is so pretty with peach standards and white falls that are edged rosy orchid-lavender. Medium sized flowers and most effective in the garden. ROYAL CRUSADER (Schreiner '85) has gigantic flowers with pale blue standards and full, true blue falls. Wide branching and husky stalks will support the big flowers. Tremendous! ROYAL SATIN (Schreiners '83) is another one with large flowers, but this indigo flower with blue beards has branching and seven buds, too. ROYALIST (M. Dunn '87) has slightly open standards and is a hearty and lush plant with excellent branching, seven buds and wonderful deep near-navy flowers. RUFFLES GALORE (Hamblen '87) is a super *ruffled* lavender blue with perfect branch-

ing and seven buds. How fortunate that such vigor is coupled with such pretty flowers!

SATIN SIREN (Gatty '87) is another late blooming addition to the garden. It is a very lacy, nicely branched large pink with seven buds and good growth. SEA OF JOY (Schreiners '85) has such pretty fluted form in true blue. The flowers appear on well branched stalks, too. SEA SPELL (Hamner '82) grows like a border bearded here, but its flowers have the charm of old LADY ISLE. A prolific increaser, the clumps are compact, free blooming and this one is such a cutie. SHAWNEE WHISPER (Poole '85) really grows on you. Flaring, ruffled, floriferous, long blooming and beautiful. It is a yellow bitone with the falls slenderly edged in darker yellow. A fine development from a little known Illinois hybridizer. SHOREBIRD (R. Nelson) has yet to be introduced, but this white performs splendidly whether on a single division or in a massive clump. Buds, branching, tremendous vigor and quality flower form. SILKWOOD (Hamblen '85) has light blue standards, white falls and beards of rusty henna. The plant hustles, the stalks do not fall over, the branching is commendable and there are plenty of buds. Wow! SIX PACK (Slade '84) is a fine new novelty iris. Every pretty light blue flower opens completely flat. This variety has the wonderful habit of opening only one blossom at a time, displaying each lovely flower to its max and extending its season. SKIES OF ITALY (Blocher '83) is another superb white. This talented hybridizer has given us many quality varieties and this one is well branched and the flowers have lovely, fluted form. So pretty! SKYBLAZE (Keppel '87) is just as lovely here as it was in California under number. Beautiful full blue with blazing red beards. Branching, buds, form and a long bloom season. A super creation, SMOOTH TALK (Gartman '82) is a waxy coral with pink flushes that create a gorgeous splash in the garden. Good increaser, seven buds and great garden effect. SOCIAL REGISTER (Ghio '82) does not have tall foliage and the stalks are shorter, but the pale pink flowers are special. The stalks nervously swing out from plants that increase too heavily, but it does not fall over. SOPHISTICATION (Hamblen '84) has pink standards and white falls that are washed with pink. Pink flows from the hafts surrounding *blue* beards!!!! Splendid branching and quality form you'd expect from Melba. SORCERESS (Keppel '82) is one I cannot part with. Consistently only six buds, but the peach standards (suffused with lavender) and the ivory falls (edged and sanded mulberry rose) create a showstopper. A good grower and so very attractive. SPANISH LEATHER (Schreiners '85) is one brown that will not burn. There are highlights of rose, copper and pale maroon. Inside the flower it radiates with moonlight yellow. SPECULATOR (Ghio '83) has a tremendous blossom nearing perfection, but the micro-budded stalks are hard to live with. Exciting, clear color, too. STELLAR LIGHTS (Aitken '85) has open standards, but the starchy deep blue-violet flowers are starchy in form and the branching is near perfect. The white area around the beards adds to its appeal. Additionally, it is a fine grower and performer. STERLING STITCH (Innerst '84) has "fat" flowers with super wide hafts. It scores "100+" in perennial qualities! It is of sensible height, the well formed white flowers are trimmed in clean and clear medium blue. It is totally disease free. What more could one ask? STERLING'S LADYLOVE (Innerst

'85) is almost as charming as Barbara herself! Standards are medium lavender blue and the white falls are trimmed in *dark* blue- purple. Unbelievable bud count, great flower form, just right branching and of sensible height. Bravo!! SUGAR DADDY (Maryott '85) is a heavily ruffled caramel with small violet flashes beneath the beards. The good stalks have seven buds and the foliage is not tall. Reminds me of the lovely CHAMBER MUSIC and I am sad to report that there was some sunburn. SULTRY MISS (Ev. Kegerise '86) is a not-to-be-forgotten new bicolor with flaring flowers abundantly carried by branched stalks on a healthy plant. Another quality Pennsylvania native from the talented Evelyn. SUMMER HAZE (Hummel '87) is subtly colored with greyish yellow standards and aster violet falls that are rimmed in pink. This one is paler than SULTRY MISS, not quite as flaring and has more muted gold overtones. It grows well, has nicely branched stalks and plenty of buds. I found it most attractive. SUN BLOSSOM (Kegerise '81) is palest yellow with deep yellow beards. Huge, wide flowers with lots of ruffles and some lace. Scads of buds and quality Kegerise branching. SUNNY & WARM (Gatty '87) is the deepest and brightest yellow bitone yet! It is a good grower and sets a new color standard for this class. Nicely formed flowers, too. SUNSHINE SONG (Niswonger '85) has palest cream standards and the falls are heavily smeared with bright yellow, fading to white at the edges. Light yellow styles and beards. Wonderful growth and a charmer. SWEET ANITA (Nearpass '87) somehow reminds me of JEALOUS LOVER, but this time the flower is a pretty pastel amoena plic—more lavender than violet or rose. It grows well and the flower form is not perfection, but she surely is charming. SYNCOPATION (Gatty '84) has rather tailored form (by today's standards) but this gold and rosy violet variegata stops you in your tracks. Bright, well branched, free blooming, tall (but strong) stalks and nothing to compare!

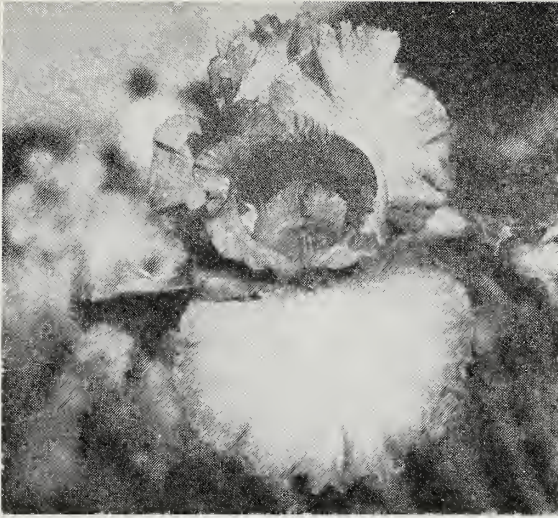
TA DA (Slade '83) has rather loose form but surely gets your attention. The smoky pink standards are edged in gold and the dark red-violet falls are faintly edged orangish gold. I prefer this to TIMELESS MOMENT. THEATRE (Keppel '81) is not new. It has only 6 buds per stalk but is vigorous, strong and lovely with violet standards and white falls that are washed in purple/heather. TIDE'S IN (Schreiners '83) has everything! Vigor, stalks, buds, form and good growth habits. Purest blue and among the very best from this famous commercial garden. TIME PIECE (Roderick '87) has the broadest most gorgeous yellow flower and the foliage and plant looked super fine. We have even higher expectations on a two year planting. TINT OF MINT (Olson '86) is another outstanding introduction from Ted. The citrusy greyed/buff/frothy yellow with strong tints of *green* is faultless. The color reminds me of foamy wedding punch. Disease free plants with multitudes of branched stalks with plenty of buds. TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiners '81) will not soon be outdated. Tall, but strong, dark navy that is still a winner! Worth thrice the price. TOMORROW'S CHILD (Blythe '85) has such vibrant contrast and the fall edgings are individual, but why mention the color if it overblooms and does not grow well? TRICK OR TREAT (Osborne '84) is a violet bitone, and I see paler areas in the falls . . . but those appendages! The petaloids are consistent, the plant grows well and we think it a quality contribution to this novelty class. TRUE BLISS

(Hamblen '87) is a pastel beauty with crisp form. Apricot standards, pink style crests, violet falls are flushed blue and the beards are bright orange. Good branching, bud count and lovely foliage. TWICE THRILLING (Osborne '84) is another "spooned" beauty, this time in pink with *purple* petaloids! In wet seasons it appears more peachy. Good plant habits, too.

VANITY'S CHILD (Olson '85) was among the finest performers in 1987 and 1988. Super duper ruffled form, pale, yet strong, pink coloration, red orange beards, dozens of stalks per clump and unmistakably terrific. Another dandy from a little known hybridizer. VARGA GIRL (Monroe '86) has big, pretty flowers, though not as abundant as VANITY'S CHILD. The color: bluish pink standards and hafts over pink falls which fade to pearl edges. A California creation that performs splendidly here. VIRGINIA AGNES (McCord '85) was first seen in Indianapolis the year prior to the convention, and this white still impresses me. The form is not overly ruffled, but I can find no serious faults. A great garden performer. WARM REGARDS (Kegerise '83) has that "cute" perky form with the addition of ruffles and heavy lacing. One can hardly imagine the effect this salmon and buff blend creates. WAR SAILS (Schreiners '84) is big, flaring, broad and a wonderful step forward in red irises. There was slight burning near the end of the third day, but it is my favorite red from these talented Oregonians. WATERED SILK (Gaulter '82) is a bright rose pink overlaid lavender with hafts brushed brown and a blue fall flash. Acceptable form, seven buds and easily recognizable. WATCH IT (Weiler '85) is always border size here, but the form is narrow and the falls need more flare. WEDDING CANDLES (Schreiners '82) is the 80's version of PINNACLE. Most of you may not recall this favorite of many years ago, yet this branched, budded and vigorous iris with near white standards and yellow falls first impressed me in Boston. I like the name, too. WHITE REPRISE (Moores '86) is a bit short here, but the fluttering, ruffled form is very nice indeed. If this white reblooms for us as it does in Texas, the iris world will again be forced to take note of thoroughly modern form in remontants. WHO'EE (Stevens '86) is a deep toasted tan with big blobs of cinnamon on the amber-edged falls. It does not burn for us and its 29" height makes it all the more noticeable among the iris giants in the garden. WILD CARD (Meek '83) is not a strong grower, but this variegated iris in white/lavender/purple/brown has very good stalks. It could use a few more buds but is always a favorite of garden visitors. WILD JASMINE (Hamner '83) is not tall, but this yellow with the brown/rust plicated overlay on the falls is a knockout. It only has six buds, but growth is fabulous and this little jewel is wild, indeed. WINE & SHINE (Slade '84) is in the color of PEKING SUMMER, yet it has none of its bad plant habits. Not perfection in form, but a real attention getter in the garden.

YUKON FEVER (Schreiners '86) is a bright, *deep* gold that does not burn. Add to that a well branched stalk with good bud count and you have a fine addition to this color class. Pendulous Schreiner form.

All reports are based on performance in my garden during the 1988 bloom season. While I am extra selective when voting the awards ballot, there are many varieties with minor faults that I would not be without. How fortunate we are to have so many talented and generous hybridizers working with irises!



Nancy Glazier



Syncopation

Pacificas from Seed, a Summary

Adele Lawyer (California)

Since the second issue of the Almanac, Spring 1974, 26 references in this publication have covered growing Pacificas from seed. This article concentrates the information to date in a single issue to simplify reference on this subject.

In a way, it seems unnecessary to issue instructions on a function which most PCNs perform very well without any outside assistance. Roy Davidson remarks "Local conditions (in the Seattle area) are ideal so that seedlings come up like grass if left alone and cause a weeding problem" In another Almanac entry, Phil Edinger echos Roy's remarks, "Here (in Northern California) they come up like grass whether I've planted them carefully in pots of sterile soil or whether capsules have opened and shed their crops on decidedly unsterile earth!"

Nevertheless, planting seeds of PCNs is the most dependable method of establishing these sometimes tempermental *Californicae* in both hostile and friendly environments.

Growers who wish to preserve the identity of a collection of named varieties *must* cut off flower stalks on these cultivars before they set seed. On the other hand, seeds are carefully collected when crosses have been made, when a quantity of seed is needed for distribution to fanciers, or when plants are selected which exhibit favorable characteristics which could thus be perpetuated.

Summary

A general summary of the most frequently recommended methods in the compilation to follow is: Plant the seeds in the fall in pots or flats and cover with about a seed's thickness of planting medium. The medium should be fast-draining with a pH of 6.5 to 7.0. Plant as many seeds as you can physically separate at transplanting time. Keep the planting medium moist until the seeds germinate in about two months. Transplant when the seedlings are 3 to

4 inches tall in March to May. They can be transplanted into the ground or into containers maintaining the proper pH. They prefer filtered shade or morning sun, especially when summers are hot. Details and variations from many contributors are compiled below.

The outline which follows is divided into five sections: Storage, Pre-conditioning, Time of Planting, Planting Methods and Media, and Transplanting Seedlings.

Seed Storage

Three individuals plant their seeds as soon as they are harvested. Most store their currently harvested seed until all the season's seeds are collected and plant in the fall. Most collect into envelopes.

Residual seed can be stored as long as 10 years without losing viability. Roy Davidson recommends covered jars for long-term storage to avoid desiccation.

Pre-Conditioning

Dora Sparrow of New Zealand seals seeds in a plastic container and puts it in the freezer for a few weeks before planting. To avoid the possibility of seed-borne disease, Francesca Thoolen suggests soaking the seed in a fungicide before planting, and Dorothy Hujsak of Oklahoma has soaked seed in tap water for one or more days before planting. She also tried putting seeds in moist peat for a one-month period 1) refrigerated, 2) frozen, or 3) at room temperature before planting in African violet mix. The best and fastest of the three methods was room temperature.—If seed is dry and shriveled, Roy Davidson says to try re-hydrating it by starting germination in a saucer in frequently changed water.

Time of Planting

Although this subject is included in the section to follow, it was mentioned often enough so that some generalizations are possible: Seventy six percent of those who mention time of planting specify late July through fall. (Phil Edinger noted that planting outdoors in fall provides a cool, moist environment and, with the prevalent rains, also provides leaching of germination-inhibiting substances.) One person from Indiana specified spring planting. Three people said they got good germination anytime. Two of these retained their planted pots for two years and pinched out seedlings as they emerged during that period. The third person could control temperature after germination in plastic bags so that transplanting time could be regulated.

Planting Methods and Media

Many contributors plant their seed in a potting mix of some kind. The formula used and the methodology employed vary greatly. Phil Edinger specifies that potting mixes should be one third sand for fast drainage and have a pH ranging from 6.5 to 7.0. Seed can be planted close together in pots or flats and must be kept constantly moist until they germinate. Roy Oliphant,

like Phil, from Northern California, also uses a good commercial potting mix but plants in plastic pots which have been soaked in potassium permanganate solution before planting. He also screens the potting mix which is placed immediately above and below the seed through quarter-inch-mesh screening to remove hunks of bark. The pots are filled and firmed, watered, planted, covered, and firmed again. They are then covered with plastic until germination.—Trevor Nottle of the Adelaide area, South Australia, plants seed, whenever he gets it, in a potting mix of peat, coarse sand, pine bark, and slow-release fertilizer. Robert D. Fabel-Ward of Little Rock, Arkansas, also plants in pots filled with a sand-peat moss mixture, as does Dara Emery of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. To two parts each of washed sand and Canadian peat moss. Dara adds 1 part medium-grade Sponge Rok and a complete organic fertilizer: blood, bone, cottonseed meal, kelp meal, rock phosphate, decomposed granite, and oyster shell. After planting and covering, he waters with a solution of non-pathogenic micro-organisms to compete and overwhelm any pathogens which might be present.

Dorothy Hujsak reported in 1981 that she was using a mix of three parts of milled sphagnum, two parts vermiculite, and one part Perlite. She planted in 6-pack plastic containers (1 by ½ inch) with the bottoms cut out and a number of seeds planted in each section. The 6-packs were grouped together and sunk into the ground outdoors where they were covered with chopped oak leaves and hardware cloth to discourage invaders.

Caroline Spiller of the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco, Dora Sparrow of New Zealand, and Lee Lenz of Southern California have all planted seed in potting mix and put the containers in a refrigerator for a 1 to 3 month period before taking them out and experiencing good germination. Lee tried putting potting mix in the containers and over this spread a thin layer of finely screened sphagnum. Seed was sowed between layers of this screened material. After thoroughly moistening the surface, the container was put in a refrigerator for 3 to 4 months, keeping the surface moist. When removed to the greenhouse, the seeds “popped up like a flat of grass.”

Caroline Spiller notes that Strybing at present is planting the seed in a moist medium in zip-lock plastic bags. This is also a procedure recommended by Roy Davidson and Dorothy Hujsak. Caroline and Dorothy use moist peat in the plastic bags whereas Roy reported using a sterilized mixture of chopped sphagnum with ground peat, sterile compost, vermiculite, etc. The medium should be wet, but not soggy, and the seeds should be surface sterilized before planting. Seal the bag tightly, leaving plenty of air inside. Both Roy and Caroline say the bags can then be loaded into a box or carton, stacked one on the other, and put in a cool place,—under the bench in a potting shed, in an attic, a basement, a protected area outdoors. Examine the bags as temperatures raise and move those showing some growth to a slightly warmer but still shady location. Germination time can be manipulated. When you wish them to sprout they can be put in the light. They can germinate within weeks of planting and produce flowers the following spring. The advantage to this method is that moisture retention is automatic and that germination can be

controlled. The disadvantage is the possibility of loss when the sensitive, somewhat sterile plants are moved into the much less sterile outside garden bed.

Bonnie Bowers of Volcano, California does not specify the planting medium she uses to fill the 2-gallon black plastic pots in which she plants her seed. She sprinkles a preparation called "Aqua-Stor" on top of the seed before she covers and waters them and notes that the pots need less water during the summer months when this material is used. Aqua-Stor is a polymer-based powder capable of absorbing many times its own weight of water. Dorothy Howard reported that Jim Keithley of Oklahoma plants PCNs in pots outdoors and moves them into his garage when particularly cold weather hits. His planting medium is not recorded, but he has had excellent results.

Some of our Almanac contributors used field soil, sometimes amended, rather than potting mix, and many planted directly into the garden.

We can start out with Roy Davidson who also contributed the plastic bag method, suggested to him originally by Hattie Hubbard. In Volume 8, Number 1 of the Almanac he tells of planting seed in a sandy-humus soil in large pots or gallon cans in the fall. The moisture should be watched carefully so that the seeds, once wet, should never dry out. Some early-germinating seeds can be pricked out and transplanted into 3-inch plastic pots, but most are left in for one year.

Francesca Thoolen, in answer to a question from France, advised planting in a soil with sharp drainage, humus added, and of neutral pH. Both the soil and the seed should be soaked separately in a fungicide before planting in 6-inch pots,—about 30 seeds per pot.

John Adan, Johannesburg, South Africa uses ordinary moist garden soil in flats. He scatters the seed over the surface, covers with river sand firmed with a block of wood. Richard Richards of Corona also likes to plant in soil but tries to obtain a soil similar to that in which the species is native. To this he adds soil sulphur, since he finds that seeds germinate better under acid conditions. The late George Stambach, Richard's neighbor, also liked to use acid-amended soil, but added compost and some earthworms to his pots. George advised against the use of peat in pots because it dries out if neglected and is difficult to wet, once dry.

Peg Edwards plants her seeds outside in Massapequa Park, New York, in a cold frame in full sun. She leaves them in the frame for a full year before setting them out. Some even bloom while still in the frame.

Elaine Hulbert, Kathryn Wright, and Robert Fabel-Ward plant directly into the garden. Elaine Hulbert, who now lives in Virginia, was referring to her former home in Connecticut when she reported successfully establishing PCNs in her garden in 1977 by planting seeds in various areas of her property until she found the most favorable conditions. Kathryn Wright used much the same technique in Terra Haute, Indiana. She planted seed in sandy loam soil on a slope in the spring. Those that have emerged are doing well without coddling. Robert Fabel-Ward grows his plants in raised beds in his Little Rock, Arkansas garden. He allows seed from his PCNs to drop to the ground

unaided. They sprout freely and produce strong, healthy plants in his heavy clay soil, modified with leaf mold, pine needles, and sand.

The late Dr. Matthew Riddle, of Oregon, wrote in a 1950 American Iris Society Bulletin that seed should be sown in the open, one quarter inch deep and in rows 6 inches apart. He planted in the fall. Lewis Lawyer also plants his seedlings in the open in Oakland, California. Seeds are sown in the fall in a semi-shaded area enriched each year with peat moss. He plants seed one half-inch deep, ten plants per foot, with rows four inches apart. If space permits, a 6-inch spacing makes digging at transplant time even easier. Winter rains take care of the bulk of the watering but hand watering to prevent drying out may occasionally be necessary. Seedlings emerge in two months and average germination is 54 percent. The seeds planted by Lewis are new crosses and seed lots range in germination from 90 to zero percent. He finds that interspecific crosses often have poorer germination than homozygous crosses.

Transplanting Seedlings

John Adan, South Africa, transplants when his seedlings are 3 inches tall. He uses peat pots containing a mixture of soil, peat moss, and sulphur and he also recommends pine-needle compost. He sets them out from the pots into the garden in the summer, by which time they have strong, fleshy roots. A half day of sun is provided and peat and a light application of sulphur is added to the beds before planting. He has also incorporated well-matured mushroom compost on occasion with good results. He mulches with pine needles.

Peg Edwards, New York, moves her seedlings from the cold frame even when they are in bloom because "they have become acclimated." She loses about half the seedlings in the first year, but the survivors are "nice, healthy, vigorous plants." She can't move them successfully from the cold frame after the beginning of July.

Joan Cooper of Minnesota transplants to a moderately acid, moderately shaded, north-sloped wildflower garden. All those that survived seemed reasonably healthy and happy.

Dan Hargreave, who worked on *Californicae* in Australia for over 30 years, planted them in autumn, transplanted seedlings in the spring, and had bloom the next spring. Trevor Nottle, also of Australia plants in autumn when the rains come. He moves his established clumps then, too. He finds this time best because it is damp and cool.

Dara Emery transfers his seedlings to 3-inch pots when they are 2 to 3 inches tall in January and February. He prefers small pots rather than flats or trays because less root damage will occur when the plants are cut apart or otherwise removed for their next transplanting. Dara applies fish emulsion to water-in the seedlings to give them a good start and he fertilizes these pots every two to three weeks thereafter with the fish emulsion. During this period the small pots must be protected from birds and baited for snails and slugs. In late June or July the "liners" are transplanted into gallon cans and finally, in the fall, they are planted out or sold. In the case of "breeding work, the liners

are sometimes planted directly into the field provided they can be watered, weeded, and degophered as needed.”

Robert Fabel-Ward transplants his hybrid seedlings into styrofoam cups where they grow from December until March. Some are planted out in the garden at the end of March and others are reserved for fall planting. They are set out in the styrofoam cups with the bottoms cut out. When established, the sides are also cut out and removed.

When Roy Davidson moves his PCN seedlings from their plastic bag nest in the peat, he opens the bag a day or two before moving and adds some dilute Hyponex or Rapid Gro fertilizer. They are then moved into pots and set into a coldframe or cool greenhouse.

Phil Edinger and Francesca Thoolen recommended that seedlings be set out when they are 3 to 4 inches tall, either into pots or the ground. If in the garden they should be situated in an area receiving morning sun or in filtered shade. They can be set out in March or April in Northern California.

Lewis Lawyer moves his seedlings from one peat-enriched area in his garden to another lining-out location in May when they average 6 inches tall. They are planted in the native decomposed rhyolite soil to which compost has been added a month or more before planting. Peat is incorporated at time of planting and acidity ranges from 5.5 to just under 7.0. Where the pH is 7 or above a small amount of sulphur is added. Seedlings are dug and the soil washed from the roots. The crown and roots are then immersed for 10 minutes or longer in a solution of Subdue (metalaxyl) at one quarter teaspoon-full per four gallons of water. *(See footnote below) After drenching, the seedlings are lined out for selection in rows 12 inches apart with 6 inches between plants in the row. A portion of these plants will bloom the following spring.

*A dropper bottle is a simpler method of application when less than 4 gallons of soak solution is needed. It is necessary, however, to calibrate the dropper bottle used in order to achieve the recommended dosage of 0.3 ml per gallon. Count the drops necessary to fill a one quarter teaspoon measuring spoon and divide this number by 4 to arrive at the number of drops per gallon. John Weiler in the Spring 1987 issue of the Almanac, uses from 6 to 8 drops per gallon whereas Lewis has used 8 to 12, depending on the characteristics of the dropper bottle. A drop or two more is neither phytotoxic nor of extra benefit, only unnecessary. Also, no phytotoxicity occurs if the plants remain in the solution longer than 10 minutes, (even up to overnight), or if some or all portions of the leaves in addition to the roots and crown, are immersed in solution. Subdue is a systemic fungicide which will move into the leaves from the roots without direct contact.

FROM THE EDITOR

Producing the Bulletin is a series of deadlines, and it seems that getting pictures to match the articles is one of the most difficult of the chores. What quality they will have when reproduced is a question that lingers until publication time.

Another convention is history, and visitors were treated to an abundance of bloom. Reports of good bloom seasons are being heard from all parts of the country. Irises seem to like dry spring weather.

Remember to send suggestions for the kind of articles you would like to read. Your help will be appreciated.

Approved Affiliates for 1988

Region 1

Connecticut Iris Society
Shirley A. Varmette, Pres.
203 Lakeview Terrace
New Haven, CT 06515

Irtis Society of Massachusetts
Janet L. Sacks, Pres.
45 Elm Street
Bedford, MA 01730

Maine Iris Society
Robert H. Sawyer
RFD 2 Box 2653
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Region 2

Empire State Iris Society
James G. Burke
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Region 3

Delaware Valley Iris Society
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501 Pennsylvania Ave.
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Diamond State Iris Society
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116 Meriden Dr.
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Mountain View Iris Society
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Susquehanna Iris Society
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3513 South Park Circle
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Iris Society**
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Williamsburg Iris Society
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Oconee Iris Society
Joe Scott Watson
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Tri County Iris Society
Virginia Maynard
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Diamondale, MI 48821

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Lancaster, KY 40444

Jackson Area Iris Society
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A Topical Collection of Iris Stamps Part IV

Harry Kuesel (Colorado)
Photos By Bob Tweed

It has been two more years since our last report on the quest for iris stamps. (See Bulletin 250, July, 1983, pp 41-57; Bulletin 254, July 1984, pp 47-63; and Bulletin 271, April, 1986, pp 62-72, for previous reports.) As in the past, Tommy Thompson (Memphis, Tennessee), and Sidney Linnegar (Oban Gardens, Woodley, England) have updated me on their research. Wendy Roller (Rochester, New York) has also added to our knowledge, particularly on the first day cachets. Since many of the designers of stamps are not familiar with the latest improvements in the modern iris, some of these cachets have been most welcome. Because they have more space to work with than the narrow confines of a postage stamp, the cachet artists have more freedom to make accurate portraits and often have achieved excellent results.

In the following listing, we will supply the Scott and/or Minkus catalog numbers and also those of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Some of the newer stamps are still too new for these catalogs and will appear in subsequent reports.

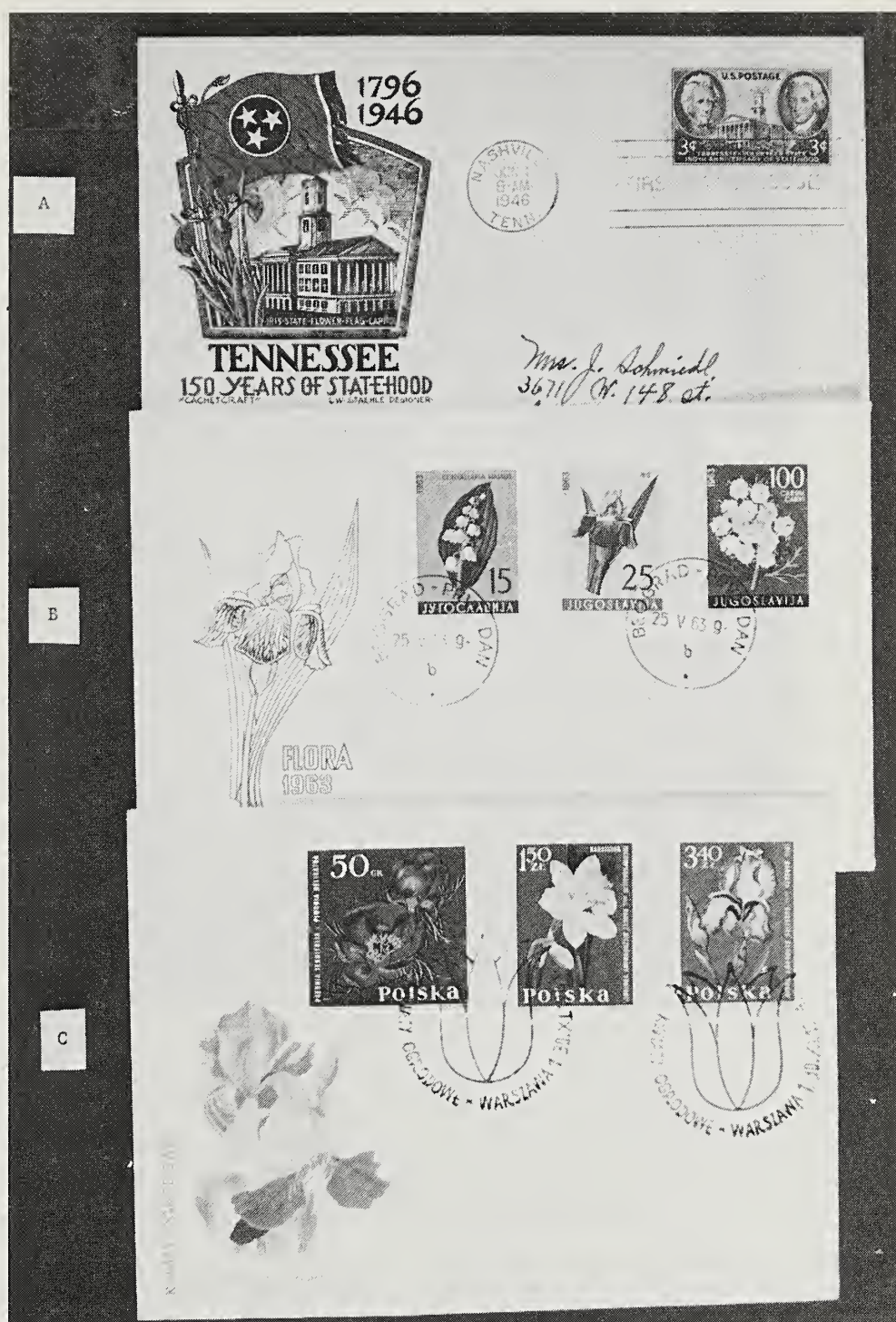
The letters below are the photo codes. They are followed by the catalogue number, country, and description.

1946

A—Scott 941, USA Since the iris is the state flower of Tennessee, Tommy Thompson got a good hunch to look back to the 150th anniversary of Tennessee's statehood, and he soon discovered a first day cachet issued in Nashville on June 1, 1946. This shows a purple iris with the state capitol in the background. Unfortunately, the fuzzy hairs of the beard appear to have been added as an afterthought, so the iris design is not the best.

1963

B—Scott 690, Yugoslavia. A first day cover issued May 25, 1963, has been found with a lovely tall bearded iris cachet.



1964

C—Scott 1829, Poland. A first day cover issued November 30, 1964, has been discovered with a bright bi-colored tall bearded iris cachet.

1965

D—Scott 115, Morocco. A first day cover, showing 3 purple irises in a cachet labeled "iris de Tanger," has come to light. This was cancelled at Casablanca on January 25, 1965. Unfortunately, the irises appear to be more like tall bearded irises than the native *I. tingitana*, which is a beardless species.



1967

E—Scott 935a, Italy. If you are looking for that elusive, bright, red, tall bearded iris you need look no further than this first day cachet, cancelled in Rome, November 20, 1967. There are 6 red, tall bearded irises in silhouette under a crabapple tree. I have been to the famous iris garden in Florence where they give an award annually to the best red iris in International competition, but they are still far from red. I'm afraid the cachet designer used some artistic license to capture the elusive pure red iris in everyone's dreams.

1970

F—Minkus 359-362, Manama. In my 1984 article, I reported the discovery of one souvenir sheet for this set of 8 stamps featuring Jan Brueghel's paintings. Now, we learn that each of these stamps was issued in a souvenir sheet with a Christmas border. The 20 du stamp shows a blackish brown, aril type iris. The 30 du, 50 du, 1 rl, 2 rls., and 5 rls values all show paintings with blue irises in them, while the 60 du previously reported had a nice, white, tall bearded iris in it.



G—Scott 1025 and 1025b, Japan, Two first day covers showing lovely Japanese iris cachets at the Expo 70 exhibition cancelled on March 14, 1970, have been found. One is for the set of three stamps in booklet form, and the other features the individual stamp in which the 50 yen value shows the painting of the field of dark blue Japanese irises.

1976

H—Scott 2092, Czechoslovakia. A 4 value famous painting set was issued, and the 2 kopecs value shows a Jan Brueghel painting of a vase of flowers with tall bearded, blue irises at the top.

1977

I—Scott 4653, Russia. The cream colored iris stamp issued in 1976, which has been previously reported, has been found in a lovely postcard which reproduces the same painting on the stamp in much enlarged form. This was made on November 7, 1977.

1978

J—Scott 1324, Japan. The Rotary International convention in Tokyo was commemorated on a 50 yen stamp issued on May 13, 1978. Another first day cover was found with a blue Japanese iris cachet and a brown postal cancellation.

1979

K—Scott 1783-1786, USA. A 4 value se tenant set of 15¢ stamps was issued showing endangered flora, but none of these were irises. However, the Fleetwood Cover Company issued a first day cachet on June 7, 1979, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, showing a slate blue iris, not unlike *cristata*, growing near the water's edge in the Great Lakes area. The cachet maker says "Even as the Great Lakes themselves have been damaged and destroyed as man disturbs their natural habitat, this tiny plant of slate blue flowers once thrived in the moist sand and gravel along Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, as well as certain parts of Wisconsin and Ontario . . . There, these simple plants once formed large patches and from late May to early July, spread their delicate blanket of color . . . If this heritage is to be preserved, it must be the concern of every American."

1981

L—Stan Gibbons, The Democratic Peoples Republic of North Korea. A three-value floral set was issued with two of them featuring irises. The 10ch value shows an accurate picture of *I. variegata*, and the 20ch value shows a fine pair of deep blue, single, Japanese irises.

M—Scott 406, Gibraltar. A 1 pound stamp was issued to celebrate the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana which did not show an iris, but the first day cachet cancelled 27 July 1981 shows a lovely wedding bouquet featuring the native flowers of Gibraltar. Two of them are irises—the blue barbary nut iris that grows on the sandy shores and the purple iris *filifolia*.

1982

N—Scott 1712, USA. The Fleetwood Cover Company issued a set of 50 different state butterflies on cachets on July 26, 1982. The one for New York State, cancelled at the state capital in Albany, shows the yellow, swallowtail butterfly with a purple wild iris in the background—probably *I. virginiana*.

O—Scott 1994, USA. Most irisarians were disappointed with the form of the purple iris on the Tennessee State Bird and Flower stamp, but two cachet makers (Gillcraft and Artmaster) prepared cover cachets for the first day of issue which featured irises on them. The latter one showed an excellent, ruffled, tall-bearded iris on it, along with a fine mockingbird. Alas, the iris is erroneously labeled *I. pseudacorus* right on the cover design.

1985

P—Scott 974, Great Britain. A booklet pane of three 17p QEII stamps was issued in November, 1985. The cover of the booklet features pond life and has a nice sketch of the yellow, *I. pseudacorus* accurately shown.

Q—Scott 3106, Bulgaria. A short, floral set was issued in two values. The 5cm stamp in slate blue shows *I. germanica* L. as two tailored tall bearded irises in good form.

R—Scott 499, Lesotho. A six value, native wildflower set was issued on November 11, 1985. The 60s value shows three, small, blue wild iris flowers, labeled *moraea*, *thomsonii*. Although classified locally as a small iris, these are a closely related species.



1986

S—Scott 440, Bhutan. Two souvenir sheets were issued showing famous antique cars. The 25 Nu value, showing the red Simplex car, has a lovely, pastel blue iris in the floral background which was completely overlooked in the catalog description.

No photo—Stan Gibbson, The Democratic Peoples Republic of North Korea issued a 3 value set in October featuring irises presented to Kim Il Sung celebrating an important diplomatic visit. The 20 ch shows a pink iris, the 30 ch shows a blue iris, and the 80 ch souvenir sheet features a maroon iris.

T—Scott 3381, Romania. A 6 value floral set was issued to celebrate a botanical conference. The 1 leu value shows a brown and yellow bitone and a lavender bearded iris labeled *Iris hispanica hort.*

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Lake Iris



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





U—Scott 5426, Russia. A 5-value floral set was issued to celebrate a floral exhibition of flowers of the Russian Steppes in Siberia. The 10k value shows a purple, intermediate bearded iris with an orange beard. A first day cover issued on January 15, 1986, shows a floral cachet with a purple iris and two other flowers in the background. A maximum card was also issued at that time, featuring a blue tall bearded iris cachet. Both the floral cachets have a great iris postal cancellation.

V—Scott 826, Algeria. A 4-value floral set was issued in December, 1986, with the 1.40 fr. stamp featuring the purple iris unguicularis.

1987

W—Scott 1741, Japan. A two-value set was issued on May 26, 1987, for the National Treasures of Japan. The 60 yen stamp features a picture of a small, gold lacquered, stationery box with Japanese irises etched in mother of pearl on the top and sides. This is another case where the catalog fails to mention the irises, but Tommy Thompson spotted them when he saw the stamp.



X—Scott, Liechtenstein. A 1100 fr. postcard was issued with a watercolor painting cachet by Tini Ospelt on May 9, 1987. A plethora of wild purple irises is featured, but not quite clear enough to tell which kind.

Y—Scott 2259a 2259c, Islamic Republic of Iran. A 4-value stamp set was issued for the New Year Spring Festival. Two of these stamps show irises on them. One 5 rls stamp shows *Iris, persica*, L (listed by Linneaus) and another 5 rls stamp features a good likeness of *I. paradoxa*. A first day cover cancelled in Teheran on March 11, 1987, which also has an iris postal cancellation.

Z—Scott 2268, USA. The long awaited Special Message Booklet pane was issued on April 20, 1987. One of the stamps in the book was a 22¢ purple iris with a Get Well message. Collectors could send their own custom made covers to the Atlanta postmaster for cancellation, and Wendy Roller and Tommy Thompson did this with excellent results. Tommy also sent a piece of that nice Current, Inc. postal stationery with the six different irises on the left side, and this came out very well. Irises have been used for special messages for many years. I have an iris postcard with a 2¢ George Washington stamp on it, dating back to April 19, 1919.

In summary, 21 new iris stamps and 18 more iris cachets have been discovered in our five-year quest for iris stamps. As you can see from this review, some of them are very elusive, and there still must be more iris nuggets to be found. We welcome your letters reporting any new discoveries. Write Harry Kuesel, 4 Larkdale Drive; Littleton, CO 80123.

W

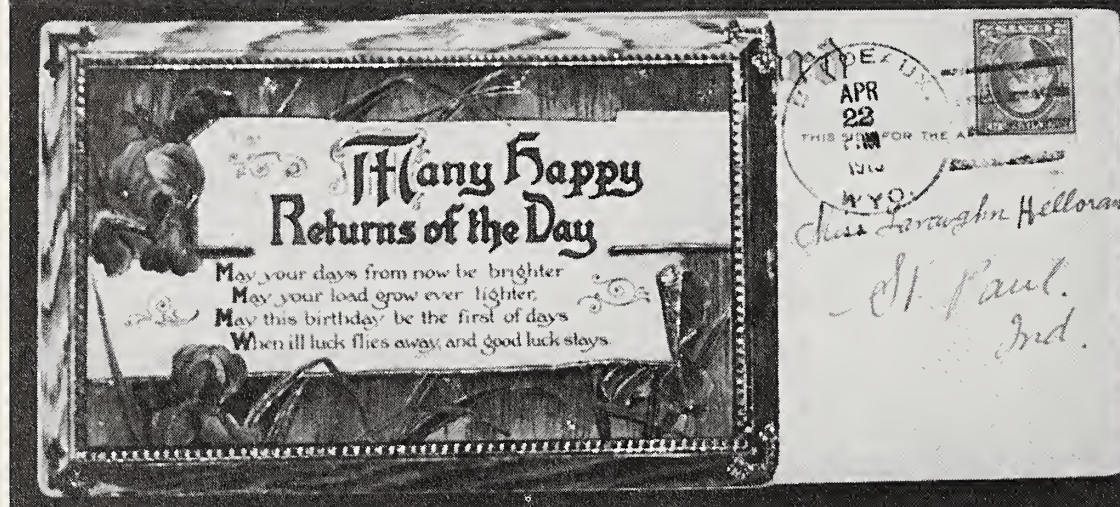
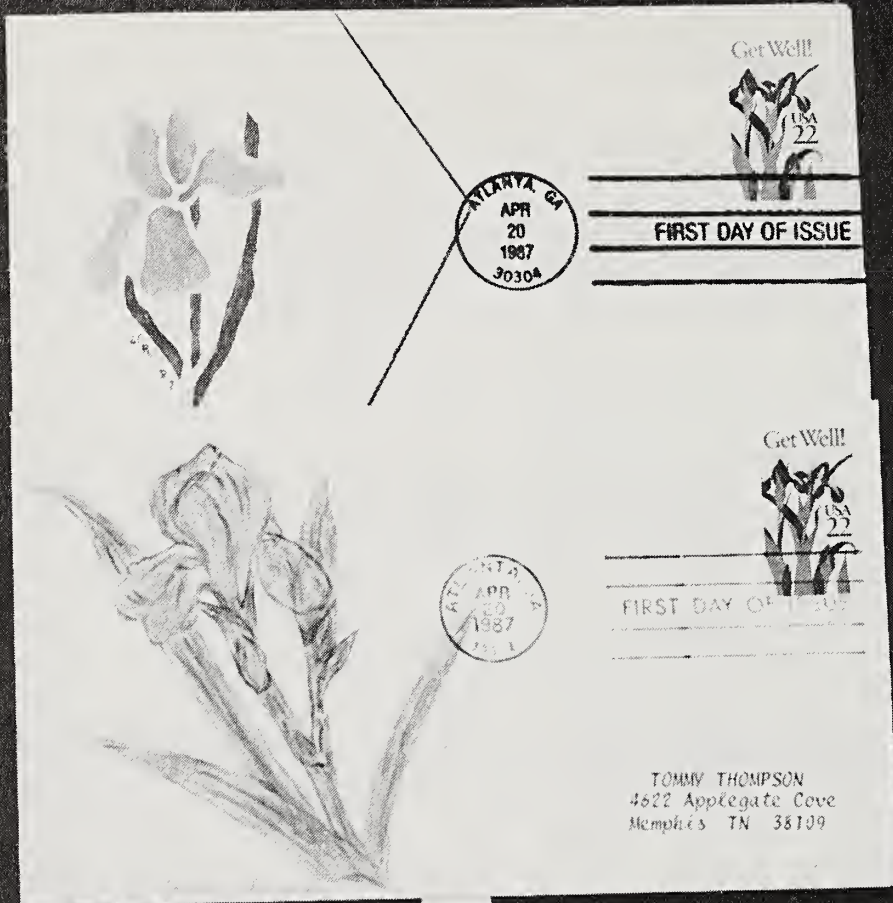


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Y





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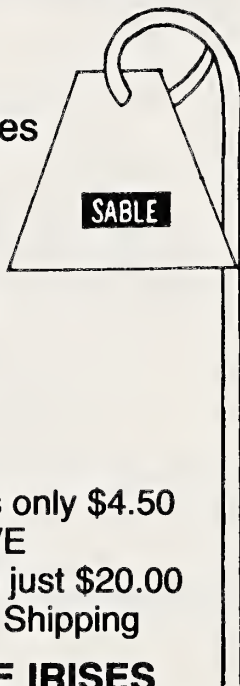
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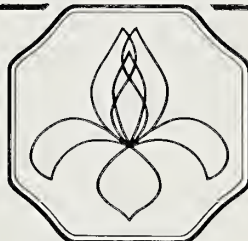
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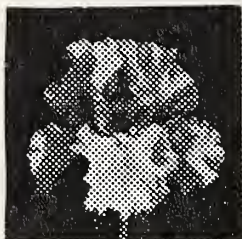
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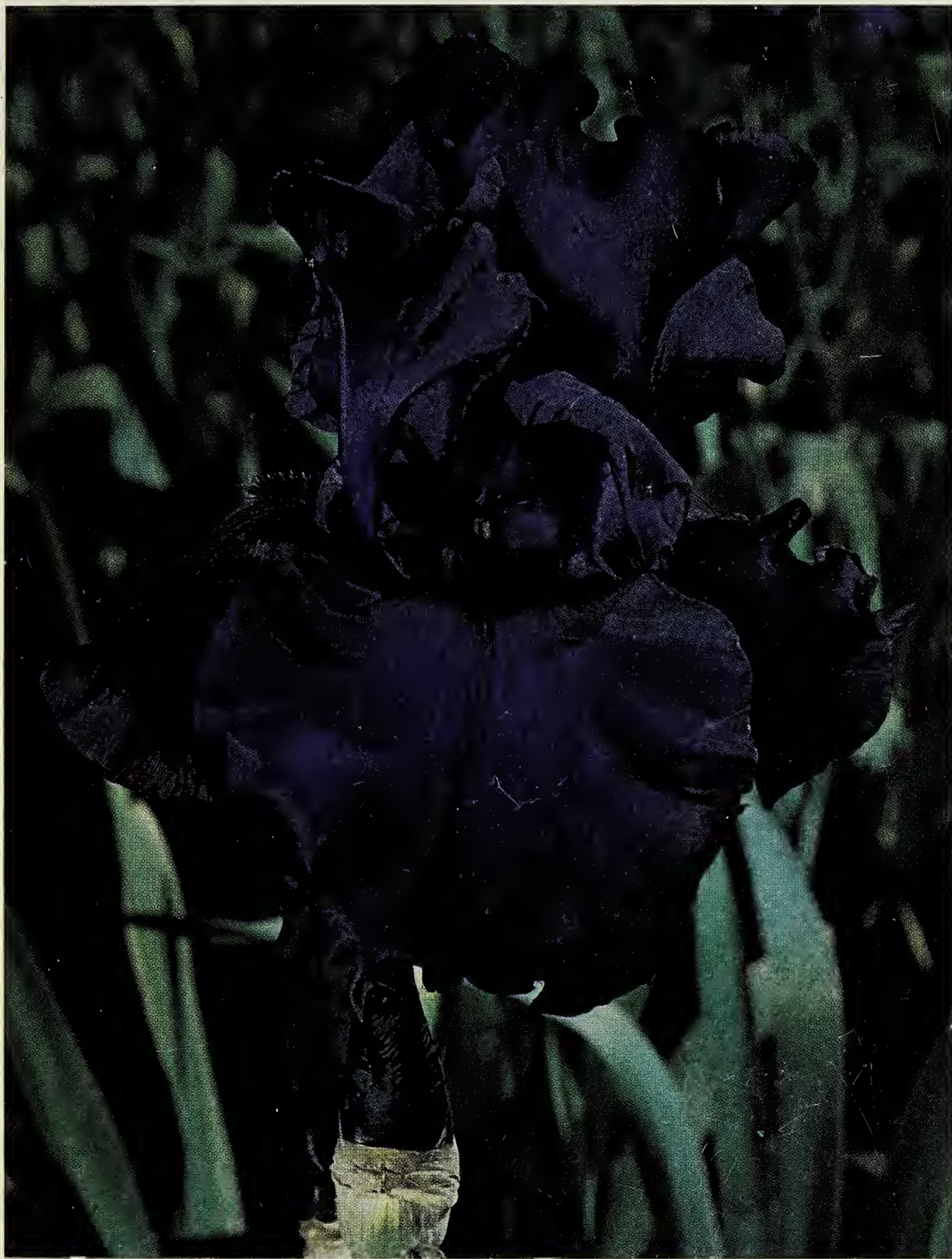
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Bulletin of the

American Iris Society

Number 271 October 1988

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—Communications regarding **advertising** should be addressed to **Kay Nelson**, Advertising Editor. For information about membership, advertising rates and section dues, see Table of Contents.

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COOPERATING SOCIETY: Aril Society International: William Scott, 1946 Vedanta Place, Hollywood, CA 90068

TABLE OF CONTENTS

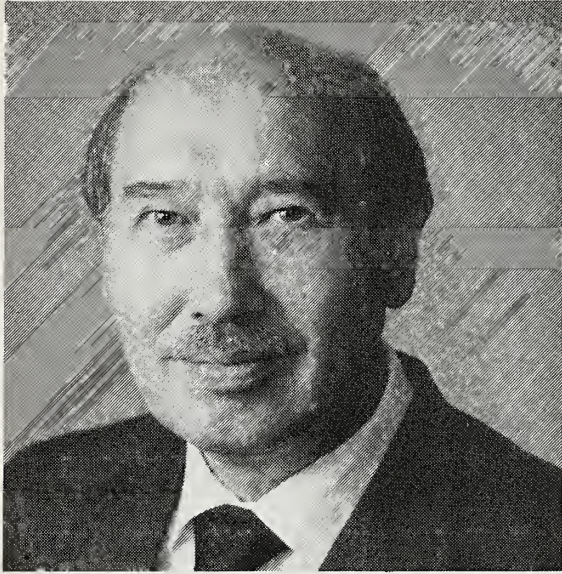
1987 AIS Awards	6
Memphis Preview	Jim Browne 18
Miniature Tall Bearded Irises	Lynda Miller 21
International Competition—Vienna	23
International Competition—Florence	24
Convention Awards	27
Favorite Guest Irises-1988	Dorothy Howard 28
Sooner State '88	
Sooner State '88	Evelyn Jones 30
OSU Tech Garden	Jim Morris 31
	Carol Warner 35
Spence Garden	Marg & Don Saxon .. 38
	Dean Brand 40
	David Ray Hooten ... 42
Shoemake Garden	Ramona Howard 43
Deaton Garden	Leda Christlieb 44
Black Garden	Bill Rinehart 45
	Carol Lankow 48
Shelley Garden	Audrey Machulak 50
Perkins Garden	Mary Ann Collins 53
Ellis Garden	Agnes Waite 55
Cole Garden	Dick Pettijohn 57
Skrapka Garden	Betty Jamieson 59
Pappan Garden	Lynda Miller 61
Clark-Nichols Garden	Connie Hall 63
Will Rogers Park Garden	Larry Harder 65
Parrish Garden	Don Delmez 68
Minutes of Board Meeting	Claire Barr 81

Regular Features

President's Message	3	Flight Lines	75
AIS Slides	5	Membership Rates	79
Contributions and Gifts	25	AIS sales items	80
Gift to AIS	26	Commercial Directory	86
Editor's page	73	Bulletin Advertising Rates	96
Youth Views	74	Copy Deadlines	96
Advertisers This Issue	74		

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COVER: TITAN'S GLORY, 1987 Dykes Medal Winner. Photo by Schreiners



From the Desk of the President

James Rasmussen

Our pleasant memories of the "Sooner State in '88" convention linger on as we settle in for the quiet winter months. The many new irises we saw and put on our wish lists have now become "dreams come true" as they have been purchased and planted in our gardens. The months ahead will be a good time to learn even more about our favorite flowers. AIS and Section literature offer a wealth of information. Most of us were too busy outdoors during the growing season to read all that has become available during 1988, including several excellent new books on a variety of irises. Let's also pay attention to publications on other plants and landscape design which might complement irises to greater advantage in our gardens.

A sense of excitement was brought to us once again by our members from other nations who participated in the Oklahoma City convention. Our out-of-USA members now account for 317 of our total membership. I hope we can continue to extend our interest in the iris and its culture to these other countries. The exchange we have with them is greatly appreciated.

The Scholarship Committee recommended that Leah Chadoir, of the University of Arkansas, be granted \$2,000 for her study of tall bearded iris. She has since declined this honor due to the fact that her degree will be completed at an earlier date. The committee then selected Tim Lukaszewsky from the University of California, Davis, to receive this grant to develop methods to improve the life of a group which includes daylilies, bearded iris, and Mexican shellflowers. The Scholarship Committee had a difficult time making the selection out of many fine applicants.

An interesting coincidence occurred a year ago. On February 3, 1927, our Articles of Incorporation were filed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Exactly 60 years to the day, our Amended Articles were filed. On that day, the Internal Revenue Service approved this change and granted the American

Iris Society 501 (c) (3) status. This has given us tax exemption under these rules and allows us to be a publicly supported organization. Donors may deduct contributions to the AIS as provided in Section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devices, transfers or gifts to the organization for its use are deductible for Federal estate or gift tax purposes if they meet Section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code. This should allow many of our members to help the AIS with its future operating expenses.



THE LOUISIANA IRIS

A 1988 publication by the Society for Louisiana Irises. A 240-page hard cover book written by 20 authors and containing 90 color photographs.

Covers the history, culture, judging and other information about the Louisiana irises. Would make a nice Christmas gift, an addition to your or your iris society's library, or to use for a show award for the 'Best Louisiana' in your iris show.

The price is \$24.95 including shipping. (Texas residents add sales tax of \$1.68.) Send check or money order to: Texas Gardener Press, P.O. Box 9005, Waco, TX 76714.

ATTENTION HYBRIDIZERS

The Sooner State Iris Society is pleased to announce the Ninth Annual
POLLEN DAUBERS' SEMINAR

February 24-25, 1989

BENNETT C. JONES

has accepted an invitation to lead sessions on hybridizing for both established and budding future hybridizers. The sessions will focus on Median and Tall Bearded irises. A fee of \$20.00 per person will be charged for the February 25 sessions only (9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.). For further information and assistance, write:

Dr. William E. Jones

2312 Butternut Place, Edmond, OK 73013

Phone: 1-405-478-3498

or come at 7:30 P.M. on the 24th to:

Will Rogers Garden Center

3400 N.W. 36 St., Oklahoma City

IRIS SLIDES FOR RENT

AIS offers a number of sets of iris slides for rental, each consisting of approximately 100 35mm slides. These provide excellent programs for both iris societies and garden clubs.

SLIDE SETS AVAILABLE FOR 1989

THE NEWEST IN IRISES: 1986 through 1989 introductions—mostly TB, but contains some other types.

RECENT AWARD WINNERS: HM and AM winners—1985 through 1988.

THE POPULARITY POLL: Favorite irises as reflected by the 1989 AIS Symposium.

RECENT BEAUTIES: 1984 through 1986 introductions which have not as yet won the HM award—mostly TB, but contains some other types.

TYPES OTHER THAN TALL BEARDED: Bearded and beardless—arranged basically in blooming sequence.

RELIABLES: Past award winners of various types—especially suited for garden clubs and newer iris societies.

1987 PHOENIX CONVENTION

1988 OKLAHOMA CITY CONVENTION

To Order: Requests for slides should be made well in advance of requested date, preferably six to eight weeks, as some sets are often completely booked for extended periods. If optional, specify alternate sets and/or dates. Clearly *print* name and mailing address to whom slides are to be sent. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, payable to AIS. AIS Affiliated Societies are entitled to one free set per year. Slide sets are to be returned the next day after showing by FIRST CLASS/PRIORITY mail. Send check with request to:

Howard Shockey, Chairman
Slides Committee
4611 Rio Grande Lane, N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE

The various Sections of AIS have slide sets available for rent featuring irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted to:

ARILS AND ARILBREDS: Order from Clay H. Osborne, 16789 Spring Creek Rd., Applegate, CA 95703, April 15 through October 14, and 47806 Fiesta, Indio, CA 92201, October 15 through April 14. Check to Aril Society International.

DWARFS: Good for rock gardens. Order from Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beechwood, OH 44122. Check to DIS.

JAPANESE: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

LOUISIANAS: Order from LaVera Burkett, 1002 Randall St., Searcy, AR 72143. Check to LISA.

MEDIANS: Standard Dwarf, Intermediate, Miniature TB, and Border Bearded. Order from Terry Aitken, 608 N.W. 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685. Check to MIS.

SPECIES: Suitable for judges' training. Order from Colin Rigby, 2087 Curtis Drive, Penn Grove, CA 94951. Check to SIGNA.

SIBERIANS: Order from James Foreman, 1370 W. Michaels Rd., Tipp City, OH 45371. Please write for details before ordering.

SPURIAS: To order, contact: Ray M. John, 1004 Springfield, Ft. Worth, TX 76112.

IRIS SLIDES NEEDED

Hybridizers and camera buffs!—To keep the existing AIS slide sets updated and of ever improving quality, a constant supply of good slides is needed. If you have high quality close-up slides of the below listed, won't you please submit them for possible inclusion in the various slide sets? Selected slides will be duplicated and the originals returned to you. Acute needs for revisions beginning in November are:

1988 and 1989 introductions of all types

1987 and 1988 HM and AM award winners—all types

Arrangements—Floral designs featuring irises

Please mail to: **Howard Shockey, Chairman**
Slides Committee
4611 Rio Grande Lane, N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

1988 AIS AWARDS

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

TITAN'S GLORY (TB) (Schreiners) 117 votes 16.6%

Runners-up

AZ AP (IB) (A. Ensminger) 45 votes

LACED COTTON (TB) (Schreiners) 33 votes

RARE EDITION (IB) (J. Gatty) 31 votes

VOTES

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

88 SOFT SPOKEN (P. Dyer)

Runners-up

72 DOLL BABY (G. Corlew)

71 PREDICTION (K. Keppel)

SASS MEDAL (IB)

143 OKLAHOMA BANDIT

(H. Nichols)

Runners-up

100 BOLD PRINT (J. Gatty)

78 RASPBERRY ROSE

(M. Hamblen)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

63 RASPBERRY JAM

(D. Niswonger)

Runners-up

62 LITTLE EPISODE (D. Rawlins)

53 BABY BLESSED (L. Zurbrigg)

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

45 DITTO (B. Hager)

Runners-up

40 ALPINE LAKE (A. & D. Willott)

29 PIXIE PINK (J. Boushay)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

117 PINK HAZE (W. McGarvey)

Runners-up

85 CHILLED WINE (B. Hager)

58 ANN DASCH (S. Varner)

DEBAILLON MEDAL (LA)

57 EASTER TIDE (C. Arny)

Runners-up

48 C'EST MAGNIFIQUE

(M. Dunn)

44 ACADIAN MISS (C. Arny)

44 BLACK GAMECOCK

(F. Chowning)

C. G. WHITE AWARD (AR)

(1/2 or more Aril)

26 TABRIZ (K. Kidd)

Runners-up

20 PRO NEWS (H. Danielson)

19 TURKISH FEZ (B. Hager)

MOHR AWARD (AB)

(1/4 to 1/2 Aril)

26 HUMOHR (B. Hager)

Runners-up

21 GREEN EYED LADY

(C. Boswell)

19 BOLD SENTRY (L. Peterson)

19 DESERT EMBROIDERY

(Rogers/Shepard)

NIES AWARD (SPU)

25 JANICE CHESNIK

(E. McGown)

Runners-up

21 DESTINATION (B. Hager)

21 CINNAMON STICK

(D. Niswonger)

MITCHELL AWARD (CA)

NO AWARD, TIE VOTE

14 BIG MONEY (J. Ghio)

14 CALIFORNIA MYSTIQUE

(J. Ghio)



TITAN'S GLORY



SOFT SPOKEN



DOTTO



HUMOHR



JANICE CHESNIK



EASTER TIDE



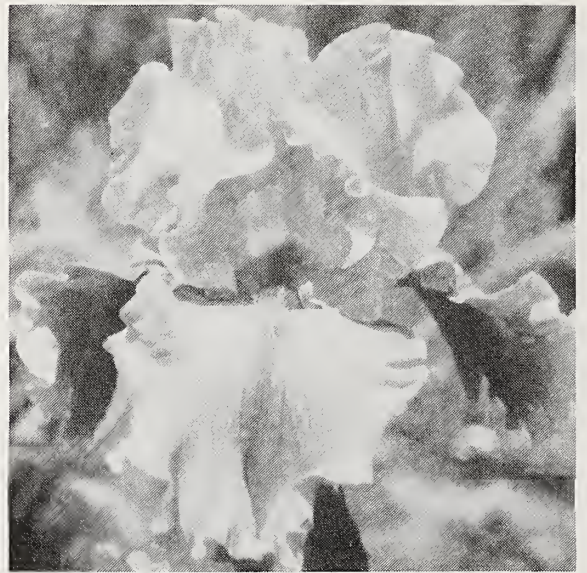
TABRIZ



RASPBERRY JAM



AACHEN ELF



EDITH WOLFORD



EVERYTHING PLUS



PRECIOUS MOMENTS

**WILLIAMSON-WHITE AWARD
(MTB)**

104 AACHEN ELF (L. Kennedy)

Runners-up

23 GRANDPA'S GIRL (K. Fisher)

20 REAL JAZZY (K. Vaughn)

PAYNE AWARD (JA)

Due to extended deadline for voting, results will be reported in a later AIS Bulletin.

WALTHER CUP

Most HM votes - All categories

VOTES

220 EDITH WOLFORD (TB)
(B. Hager)

Runners-up

193 BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (MTB)
(J. & G. Norrick)

159 DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)
(Schreiners)

158 BATIK (BB) (A. Ensminger)



OLYMPIAD



GIGOLO



PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE



TOMORROW'S CHILD

AWARD OF MERIT

TALL BEARDED

VOTES

- 144 EVERYTHING PLUS
(D. Niswonger)
- 102 PRECIOUS MOMENTS
(J. Ghio)
- 101 OLYMPIAD (J. Ghio)
- 97 GIGOLO (K. Keppel)
- 95 PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE
(Schreiners)
- 95 TOMORROW'S CHILD (Blythe/
Keppel)
- 90 CONGRATULATIONS
(K. Keppel)
- 86 HINDENBURG (W. Maryott)
- 82 FLAMING VICTORY (J. Weiler)
- 78 SKIERS' DELIGHT
(Schreiners)
- 77 KAREN (M. Hamblen)
- 72 LORD JEFF (K. Waite)
- 72 SYNCOPATION (J. Gatty)

Runners-up

- 71 BLACK FLAG (H. Stahly)
- 63 VISUAL ARTS (Schreiners)
- 59 JEAN HOFFMEISTER
(J. Gatty)
- 58 EXTRAVAGANT (M. Hamblen)
- 56 COLORTART (S. Innerst)
- 55 PRAY FOR PEACE (G. Plough)

SIBERIANS

- 60 KING OF KINGS (S. Varner)
- 51 CREME CHANTILLY
(C. McEwen)
- 38 DANCING NANOU (A. Miller)
- 38 LAUGHING BROOK (K. Waite)

Runners-up

- 34 LAVENDER BOUNTY
(C. McEwen)
- 31 FORREST McCORD
(R. Hollingworth)
- 31 SAIL-PLANE (J. Ennenga)

BORDER BEARDED

- 67 BORDERLINE (J. Ghio)
- 62 MUSIC BOX DANCER
(E. Roderick)
- 54 FEATHERED FRIEND
(A. Ensminger)

Runners-up

- 52 CHICKASAW SUE (J. Gibson)
- 50 LACY LASSO (B. Hager)
- 43 FIDDLER (H. Stahly)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

- 120 HOT FUDGE (B. Hager)
- 110 HARLOW GOLD (P. Black)
- 89 LITTLE SNOW LEMON
(G. Gaddie)

Runners-up

- 48 WAMPUM (A. Ensminger)
- 47 COLORADO GOLD (R. Lyons)
- 38 IDA MARY PATTISON
(H. Briscoe)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- 62 LITTLE ANNIE (D. Niswonger)
- 56 FINGERPRINTS (W. Maryott)
- 53 DO-SI-DO (A. Ensminger)
- 50 LEMON RINGS (T. Aitken)

Runners-up

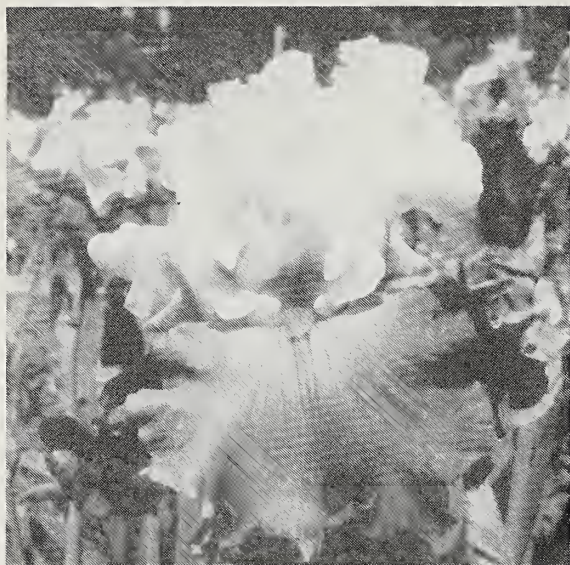
- 45 RITA KINSELLA (H. Briscoe)
- 42 CHERRY POP (B. Hager)
- 42 ICE CHALET (P. Black)
- 38 PAC MAN (L. Bellagamba)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

- 43 FLEA CIRCUS (B. Hager)
- 42 CRANBERRY CHALICE
(E. Roberts/D. Sindt)
- 42 GOLDEN EYELET (L. &
R. Miller)

Runners-up

- 36 TOYLAND (A. & D. Willott)
- 35 PUPPET BABY (C. Boswell)
- 34 SPARKY (T. Aitken)



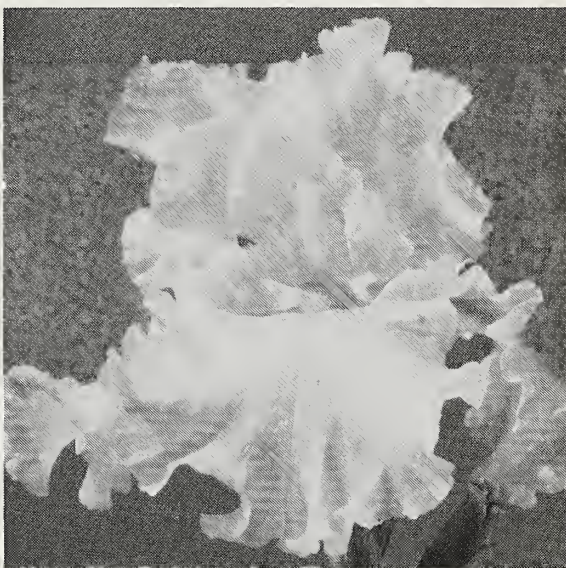
CONGRATULATIONS



HINDENBURG



FLAMING VICTORY



SKIER'S DELIGHT



KAREN



LORD JEFF



SYNCOPATION



KING OF KINGS



LAUGHING BROOK



HOT FUDGE



LITTLE SNOW LEMON



HARLOW GOLD

LOUISIANA

54 BAJAZZO (M. Dunn)

39 PROFESSOR PAUL

(J. Mertzweiller)

37 BUXOM (M. Dunn)

Runners-up

34 LITTLE MISS SIMS

(F. Chowning)

32 ELUSIVE BUTTERFLY

(J. Ghio)

31 GULF SHORES (M. Dunn)



BAJAZZO



PROFESSOR PAUL



BUXOM



LITTLE ANNIE



FLEA CIRCUS

HONORABLE MENTION

TALL BEARDED

VOTES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 220 EDITH WOLFORD (B. Hager) | 32 FEMININE WILES (J. Nelson) |
| 159 DUSKY CHALLENGER
(Schreiners) | 31 PORCELAIN BALLET
(P. Black) |
| 114 LATIN HIDEAWAY (H. Nichols) | 31 QUASAR (B. Hamner) |
| 98 BREAKERS (Schreiners) | 31 STELLAR LIGHTS (T. Aitken) |
| 76 AUTOGRAPH (W. Luihn) | 30 ELSIEMAE NICHOLSON
(G. Corlew) |
| 72 WINEMASTER (K. Keppel) | 30 ROYAL CRUSADER
(Schreiners) |
| 67 VARGA GIRL (H. Monroe) | 30 VANITY'S CHILD (T. Olson) |
| 64 EVER AFTER (K. Keppel) | 29 AMERICAN BEAUTY
(G. Shoop) |
| 61 CHANGE OF HEART
(K. Keppel) | 29 HEAT PUMP (S. Stevens) |
| 60 EAGLE'S FLIGHT (Schreiners) | 29 ICE CAVE (Wright/Lankow) |
| 58 RED LION (B. Hager) | 29 LET'S DANCE (R. Nelson) |
| 57 FINE CHINA (J. Gatty) | 29 PLANNED TREASURE
(E. Burger) |
| 56 FRAGRANT LILAC (B. Hager) | 29 ROSECRAFT (M. Hamblen) |
| 55 BLACKOUT (W. Luihn) | 28 BACK IN BLACK (Schreiners) |
| 53 CRANBERRY CRUSH
(T. Aitken) | 28 CHUCK WALTERMIRE
(C. Waltermire) |
| 53 UNDERSEA ADVENTURE
(P. Black) | 28 CINDERELLA'S COACH
(B. Hager) |
| 49 APHRODISIAC (Schreiners) | 28 FLASHPOINT (K. Keppel) |
| 49 BRASSY BROAD (P. Black) | 28 KENTUCKY COAL (G. Slade) |
| 46 CREATIVE STITCHERY
(Schreiners) | 28 ORIENTAL KNIGHT (J. Weiler) |
| 45 BUBBLING LACE (P. Black) | 28 SIMPLY PRETTY (J. Gatty) |
| 44 LOYALIST (Schreiners) | 28 SWEET MUSETTE
(Schreiners) |
| 44 MOMENTUM (M. Dunn) | 27 BEAUTIFUL SURPRISE
(P. Black) |
| 44 YUKON FEVER (Schreiners) | 27 FASHION ARTISTE
(Schreiners) |
| 43 SATIN SATAN (J. Weiler) | 27 LIAISON (J. Ghio) |
| 42 CHOCOLATE ROYALE (Blythe/
Keppel) | 27 OLYMPIC CHALLENGE
(Schreiners) |
| 42 CRYSTALYN (R. Dunn) | 26 COPPER LACE (L. Wolford) |
| 41 CAYENNE PEPPER
(Schreiners) | 26 GLAD RAGS (B. Hager) |
| 38 BLAZING SUNRISE (P. Black) | 26 KABAKA (D. Niswonger) |
| 37 CHARGER (H. Stahly) | 26 PURPLE PEPPER
(C. Nearpass) |
| 35 DIVINITY (J. Ghio) | 26 SAFFRON FLAME
(M. Hamblen) |
| 34 BOY FRIEND (B. Williamson) | |
| 34 WITCHES' SABBATH
(W. Maryott) | |
| 33 CARNIVAL IN RIO (P. Black) | |
| 32 BLACK HILLS GOLD
(O. Brown) | |

26 VAN GOGH (B. Williamson)
 25 CLOUDLESS SUNRISE
 (D. Niswonger)
 25 HULA DANCER (G. Shoop)
 25 PERSIAN GOWN (O. Brown)
 25 RHYTHM ON ICE (G. Gaddie)
 25 RUFFLES GALORE
 (M. Hamblen)
 25 SHALAKO (H. Shockey)
 25 STOP THE MUSIC
 (Schreiners)

BORDER BEARDED

158 BATIK (A. Ensminger)
 83 BOY O' BOY (J. Ghio)
 74 WHO'EE (S. Stevens)
 71 ZINGER (S. Stevens)
 60 COPPER GLAZE
 (M. Hamblen)
 47 FLASHDANCE (E. Roderick)
 31 LOVING CUP (D. Meek)
 26 PEASANT DANCE
 (C. Helsley)
 22 DANGER HOUR (D. Meek)
 22 STATUETTE (J. Ghio)
 19 CALIFORNIA GIRL (F. Foster)
 17 LITTLE PINKABLOO
 (D. Carson)
 15 MIXED UP KID (C. Boswell)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

92 LOGO (K. Keppel)
 46 BUBBLY BLUE (T. Aitken)
 35 SUNSHINE BOY (F. Foster)
 31 DUSTY RHODES (A. &
 D. Willott)
 30 BUTTERPAT (Schreiners)
 30 GOLDEN MUFFIN
 (D. Niswonger)
 28 LACY (J. Gatty)
 27 MISS RIGHT
 (Wright / Lankow)
 26 BLUE CALICO (C. Palmer)
 25 WHITE LILACS (B. Warburton)
 22 NIGHT SHIFT (T. Aitken)
 20 KIOWA MOON (C. Palmer)
 18 DAYDREAM BELIEVER
 (H. Nichols)

17 LEAPIN' LIZARDS (K. Waite)
 17 MOSS BAY (C. Lankow)
 16 BABY PRECIOUS PEPPER
 (J. Mahoney)
 15 HOKEYPOKEY (S. Innerst)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

38 RAZZLE-DAZZLE (G. Gaddie)
 37 SUN DOLL (B. Jones)
 30 CHERRY TART (T. Aitken)
 27 PEOPLE PLEASER
 (A. Ensminger)
 20 LITTLE LOUIE (P. Black)
 20 PLUM PERFECT
 (A. Ensminger)
 17 DANCING MOONBEAM
 (H. Nichols)
 17 PLUM WINE (J. Weiler)
 17 YELLOW GIRL (B. Jones)
 15 ICED LEMONADE (A. &
 D. Willott)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

33 CHUBBY CHERUB (T. Aitken)
 28 FUNNY FACE
 (Brizendine / Fry)
 23 EGRET SNOW (D. Sindt)
 23 LITTLE GREEN EYES
 (C. Boswell)
 22 TIFFANY GLASS (A. &
 D. Willott)
 20 JADE STAR (L. & R. Miller)
 19 CANDLE FLASH (D. Sindt)
 19 MAYA MIST (A. Machulak)
 15 MINI PEARL (Street / Fry)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

192 BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (J. &
 G. Norrick)
 97 NEW WAVE (B. Hager)
 67 CRYSTAL RUFFLES
 (M. Dunderman)
 45 TYKE (B. Warburton)
 44 LIVELY ROSE (K. Fisher)
 28 LUCKY MISTAKE (J. &
 G. Norrick)
 19 LADY BELLE (T. Varner)
 18 LADY OF CHARM (T. Varner)

- 16 LADY EMMA (F. Jones)
- 16 SOUL SEARCHER
(H. Nichols)
- 10 CREME LADY (T. Varner)

LOUISIANA

- 22 CAJUN COUNTRY (B. Hager)
- 18 CHATEAU MICHELLE
(M. Dunn)
- 17 CREOLE QUEEN (M. Dunn)
- 16 BOB WARD (R. Morgan)
- 15 DELTA DUDE (M. Dunn)

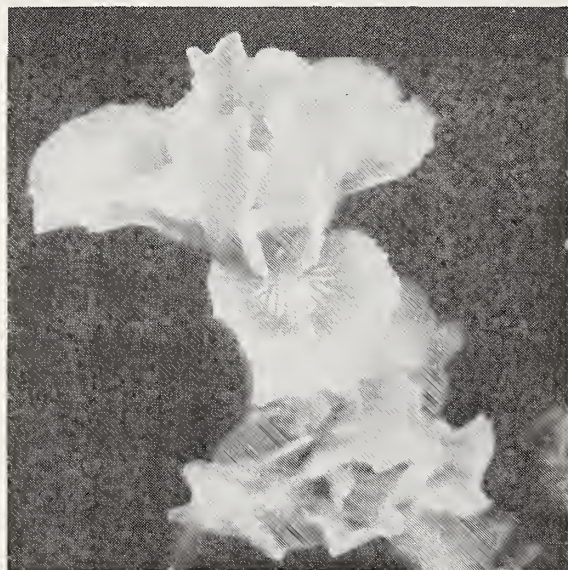
ARIL

(1/2 or more Aril)

- 37 JEWEL OF OMAR
(C. Boswell)
- 16 STARS OVER LPASO
(H. Danielson)
- 14 WHITE ARTS (S. Danielson)
- 13 POLISHED BRASS
(L. Danielson)
- 12 JACOB'S WELL (Brizendine/
Fry)
- 12 TURKESTAN (B. Hager)
- 10 NETTED BRONZE
(C. Boswell)



FINGERPRINTS



LEMON RINGS



CRANBERRY CHALICE



GOLDEN EYELET

ARILBRED

($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ Aril)

- 39 OMAR'S TORCH (C. Boswell)
- 23 DESERT HERITAGE
(L. Flanagan)
- 20 CLEOPATRA'S BEAUTY
(H. Nichols)
- 16 OMAR'S SISTER (C. Boswell)
- 14 KNICKIE (F. Gadd)
- 11 SUESHI (F. Gadd)

SIBERIAN

- 91 LADY VANESSA
(R. Hollingworth)
- 64 HELIOTROPE BOUQUET
(R. Hollingworth)
- 43 TEMPER TANTRUM
(W. McGarvey)
- 42 INDY (R. Hollingworth)
- 32 ILLINI CROWN (S. Varner)
- 18 BELLISSIMA (B. Warburton)
- 15 GOLDEN CRIMPING
(C. McEwen)

SPURIA

- 64 HIGHLINE CORAL
(E. McCown)
- 44 BURNT TOAST (E. McGown)
- 37 LOVE FOR LEILA
(F. Wickencamp)
- 26 COBALT MESA
(F. Wickencamp)
- 24 CHOCOLATE DIP (B. Hager)
- 22 MEGATREND (B. Hager)
- 20 MYSTIC MESA
(F. Wickencamp)
- 19 HEADWAY (B. Hager)
- 18 MARY'S BEAU BRUMMEL
(E. McCown)
- 15 TRANSFIGURATION
(B. Hager)
- 11 MYSTIFIER (Walker/Abrego)

CALIFORNICAE

- 15 DRIVE YOU WILD (J. Ghio)
- 12 ELBERTA PEACH (J. Ghio)
- 12 NAPA VALLEY (L. Lawyer)
- 11 CANDY BANNER (J. Ghio)



Conventioneers in The Nancy Perkins Garden
in Edmond, Oklahoma

Start something great in **Memphis**

A Memphis Preview

Jim Browne (Tennessee)

Despite the drought that has gripped much of America and has slowed traffic on the Mississippi River to a crawl, irises for the national convention are bursting forth with vegetative increase, easily a month early. This spring Memphis experienced a near perfect season of color and growth for perennial plants. There was very little winter kill in the irises and presently, very little evidence of mustard seed rot that plagues us because of our humid summer days. In fact, I have never seen irises growing better in my own garden with 8-10 leaves per fan; but, I will admit that I have cultivated my irises twice a month and have monitored their moisture needs closely.

Memphis this spring was unique in other ways. With the gracious consent of The American Iris Society Judges' Training Chairman, we conducted a garden evaluation in the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden, our master planting, of many of the guest irises sent to Memphis for the convention. Eight hundred sixty-seven evaluation forms were produced, one for each guest iris. Then, the evaluation forms of all the irises in a single bed were arranged in order as they would be seen as the visitor walked down the bed with all of the irises of the front row coming first, followed by those of the second and so on. When the training session began, the participants numbered off from 1 to 4 with all the people who were in each number grouping becoming an evaluation team. The numbering of participants split up buddies who would have similar interests. Within each team, an American Iris Society judge was appointed as leader. One member became the measurer and one the record keeper. From the comments during the workshop, everyone learned from the exchange of opinions and ideas.

Before I delve into those iris varieties that scored highly in the evaluation, let me point out that three hours passed quickly, and unfortunately, only half the guest irises were reviewed critically. Also, let me point out that although we did not have a late freeze, we began spring three weeks early and ended the season two weeks late. At the time of the Region 7 Spring meeting, many iris varieties still had bloomstalks emerging, thus, only those actually blooming were given an overall appraisal. Each iris clump was evaluated as to:

- 1: Whether it was blooming, and if it was, were the blooms proportional to the bloomstalk. Also, the critiquers were asked if the iris was properly classified; the average height of its bloomstalk and the number of bloom-

stalks; the average number of branches and buds per stalk; and if there was any evidence of winter kill.

2: Also, the evaluators were asked if the foliage appeared healthy; if there was sufficient increase; or if the plant appeared stunted; and the ratio of vegetative fans to bloomstalks.

3: They were asked for an over-all appraisal from 1 to 10 with ten being the highest score.

The following are irises which scored seven or better:

Ray Lyons: LY 80-3-1 had 3 bloomstalks, each bearing 3 branches (Branches do not include the terminal of the bloomstalk in this discussion) and seven buds. This clump produced on a first year clump 11 vegetative fans. The pink blossoms were proportional to the 44 inch stalks. It is listed in our guest records with a height of 34 inches.

Ken Mohr's INTREPID scheduled for 1989 release had 38 inch bloomstalks with 7 buds and 3 branches. This clump of violet blooms developed 5 healthy increases to one bloomstalk.

Ken Mohr's L-92 is set for 1990 release. Ironically, this blue amoena reminds one of blue skies and white billowing clouds. This cultivar produced a 5 to 1 ratio of fans to bloomstalks with 8 buds to the three branched stalk.

John Weiler's SATIN SATAN, one of the 1986 releases from Rialto Gardens, produced heavily ruffled florets of velvety blackish-purple on 31 inch bloomstalks. While only producing two increases vs two bloomstalks, each bloomstalk carried 9 buds with a complement of three branches.

John Weiler's GLORY STORY (1988) produced proportional florets on 30 inch bloomstalks. From a breeder of dark blues this very ruffled deep blue iris cultivar threw stalks that carried 7 buds and blossoms. The stands were slightly open, but appeared to have sufficient substance to maintain its proper flower form. Its listed height on our records is 37 inches.

Weiler's PULSAR, a 1987 release, is bright, bold and dynamic of color and vibrant with appeal. Its energized orange beards radiate from the high intensity yellow of the flower. Additionally, its healthy growth and proportional flowers make up for its below average increase. This clump displayed a 2:2 ration. Each stalks carries 7 buds.

Bob Brown's ARRANGER'S CHOICE produced 5 increases and one bloomstalk this spring. Its bloomstalk possessed 5 branches with two secondary bloomstalks off the main stalk. Other reports around the city indicate 1 to 4 bloomstalks per clump with bountiful increase. It possesses dusky lavender violet blossoms with a darker area in the falls.

Don Denney's D79-46 produced tangerine orange florets on 27 inch bloomstalks. The evaluators noted that it almost made the TB height which in its second year should not be a problem. (It is listed for a 38 inch height.) Nine buds and flowers on three branched stalks made a "nice performance" as the judges noted.

Paul Black's GLITZ N GLITTER (1988) put on a show in Memphis with its "interesting color pattern." Its stands are described as gold with a large gold

yellow splash on the mulberry falls. Its bloomstalk measured 27.5 inches with one branch and 5 buds. It produced a 2:1 ratio of increase to bloomstalk, but certainly produces a snappy, snazzy flower.

Bill Maryott's DOUBLE AGENT, a 1988 release, produced a clump in "fine condition" with its "beautiful flowers." Its rose over maroon flowers were displayed on 29 inch bloomstalks with one branch and a spur below the terminal. DOUBLE AGENT gave our first year evaluation team a 3:2 ratio of fans to stalks.

Paul Smith's HELEN WANNER (1986) produced a 6 to 1 ratio. Its one bloomstalk produced 7 yellow and lavender bicolor blooms and 2 branches below the terminal.

Monty Byers and Joe Ghio had quite a few that received high marks. They included for Byers: HOWDY DO (86), EASTER LACE (88), LOVEBIRD (88), BE MINE (86), D177-1, D1-1, and PAGAN PINK (88). For Joe Ghio they are: 81-148-PZ, 82-304, MARRIAGE VOWS (87), CHUCKLES (87), INAUGURAL BALL (88), INDISCREET (88), RANCHO GRANDE (88), GOLD COUNTRY (87), INCANTATION (87), and DIVINITY (86). I will discuss only those varieties that rated 9 or better to limit myself.

Byers' personable space age iris HOWDY DO caught our evaluators' attention with its 10 horned blooms per three branched bloomstalk. Also, it appears to have exceptional vigor with a 5:1 ratio.

Byers' second entry in this recap of performance appraisals was his 1988 introduction EASTER LACE. This pale pinkish orchid edged yellow in the standards and tan in the falls produced 2 bloomstalks and 6 increases to carry on its growth. Each bloomstalk had a complement of 6 buds and three branches.

Finally, Byers' BE MINE (86), with pink stands atop blendings of pink and white produced 8 buds per bloomstalk and three branches. This iris was given one of the few 10s in the ratings.

Joe Ghio, who sits down with Keith Keppel and Joe Gatty each spring to determine from the R & I book which one of them has more irises as parents of new iris listings than the other (And their own crosses don't count), developed 82-304, a knockout orange of "great garden value." This iris, under consideration for introduction, produces 12 buds per stalk and each stalk has 3 branches and 5 spurs. (This was a favorite in my garden, but it insisted on blooming out. Fortunately, increases are developing.

MARRIAGE VOWS, another Ghio hybrid released in 1987, is a swirl of soft pink lace on bright blue-pink standards and blue-white falls. These mouth watering florets are borne on stalks of 2 branches and 6 buds.

An 88 release, Joe's INAUGURAL BALL is glowing red purple highlighted with a blue beard. Its heavily ruffled blossoms were held by bloomstalks of two branches and a spur. This stalk had 5 buds and blooms.

RANCHO GRANDE, a current Ghio introduction is a tan from SPECULATOR and TEMPLE GOLD breeding. The flowers were both fluted and ruffled, giving a scalloped effect to the petals. Eight buds developed on its three branches and terminal.

GOLD COUNTRY, another in a Joe Ghio color class, displayed a 3:1 ratio of vegetative increase to bloomstalk. Of typical Ghio ruffling, this variety also shows its SPECULATOR heritage with large blooms on 3 way branched stalks. This variety produced 6 buds in single budded sockets.

Lastly, INCANTATION (Ghio 87), a revere blue amoena from Tucker's SURF RIDER, Bennett Jones' SEA VENTURE, and Joe's own MYSTIQUE possesses light blue stands, as it should from its parents, and a darker blue flush up the midrib of the stands. White falls highlighted with light blue beards complete this concoction. Eight buds were atop three branches and a terminal. The iris produced a 4:1 ratio.

There were so many more that could be written about. The progress in Siberian iris breeding has been exponential. Bob Hollingworth's hybrids HELIOTROPE BOUQUET, INDY, JEWELLED CROWN, and WIZARDY were exceptional with many bloomstalks, buds, and delectable charm. The general public's attention was captured by their presentation this spring.

In closing, I wanted to ease your concerns about the setting of the Memphis Convention and the effects of the weather on the guest irises. The Mississippi River is at an all time low of minus 10.7 feet (Flood stage is 34 feet). Even with barge groundings and the Corps of Engineers working around the clock to keep the river open to traffic, 900,000,000 gallons of water still pass Memphis per day. And, as for moisture for growing irises during a drought, Memphis is located over the Mississippi Embayment, an area that begins at Cairo, Illinois, and runs 225 miles to the south. This area stretches to 45 miles west of Memphis and 120 miles to the east of the city. In essence, Memphis is located over a vast underground lake with an estimated depth at Memphis of 600 feet. Even pulling 200 million gallons of water on a single summer day has negligible effect on the trillions of gallons of reserves. The city's water table is still in the sandy layers above the lake. It is staggering! But don't worry about those guest irises.

Miniature Tall Bearded Irises

Lynda Miller (Indiana)

Miniature tall bearded irises, sometimes called table irises because when they were first seen in the garden among the tall bearded irises, they were thought to be perfect for arrangements on a table, are still today small flowers on medium-tall, slender stalks which are perfect for arrangements. The judging standards for flower size, height, proportion, and stem size have remained the same, but the flower form has improved very much. Flower size cannot be over six inches in combined height and width. Stalk size should be no larger than a pencil, and height is still 16 to 25 inches. Proportion, the single most important feature, means the flower size should be in proportion with the height of the plant.

NEW WAVE (Hager 86), a white which is a taller miniature tall bearded, has a larger flower than BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (Norrick 86), a yellow and dark maroon, which is shorter and thus has smaller flowers. Overall flower size, I

feel, should be no larger than ABRIDGED VERSION (Hager 83), a pink, and no smaller than CONSUMATION (Welch 78) with white standards and navy falls or DOTTED DOLL (J. & L. Fry 87), a white that is dotted blue. A too small flower on a tall stalk or a large flower on a short stalk would make that plant out of proportion. Remember, any "Miniature Tall Bearded" which has flowers over six inches in combined height and width should not be in this class. They are not miniature tall bearded irises.

Flower form has been improving over the last several years. Not all miniature tall bearded irises have very tailored forms. Many are lightly ruffled and well rounded. CHICKEE (Dunderman 80), a yellow, has very round petals that are lightly ruffled and semi-flaring. CHICKEE'S flowers have not lost their daintiness even though they appear much fuller than varieties like AACHEN ELF (Kennedy 84), a yellow and lavender which is tailored at the hafts. The main thing is that the flowers not lose their daintiness. Heavy ruffling and drooping falls detract from the graceful form. Each blossom should have petite form. Flaring falls are necessary for the flowers to be seen to advantage. All of the shorter bearded varieties need this feature so more of the flower's color pattern can be seen when viewed from above. ROSEMARY'S DREAM (Dunderman 82), a white heavily stitched rose, is a good example of flaring falls. The standards also need to be domed unless open standards reveal an attractive color feature in the center of the flower. Then, open standards are acceptable.

Clean, bright, and clear colors are a must for miniature tall bearded irises. When you are small, you have to do everything you can to catch someone's attention. Many varieties have striping at the hafts, but as long as they are clean, they are not a fault of the flower. Sometimes these stripings can add to the character of the flower such as in REAL JAZZY (Vaughn 82) which is light purple with dark purple falls. Their stripings give the flowers a zippy, jazzed-up look. Another pleasing color feature is the pencil edge on the falls such as on GRANDPA'S GIRL (Fisher 84). This has yellow standards over red violet falls which are edged yellow.

The main fault I find with some miniature tall bearded irises is their poor adjustment when transplanted. Some varieties are very poor growers and some adjust poorly when being transplanted, while others like AACHEN ELF and BUMBLEBEE DEELITE adjust very quickly and increase so rapidly they have to be transplanted every other year. The main thing to remember is to be patient with a new variety. Most varieties are slow starters but grow well the second season. Only a few varieties, like ECHO POND and BLACK LADY, have been very stubborn growers. If you need irises for flower arranging or irises for a flower show that is a little early for your tall bearded varieties, miniature tall bearded irises are especially for you. More than once an MTB has won over all the tall bearded irises for queen of the show in the state of Indiana.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR DWARF IRISES

Vienna, 1988

State Prize: MIDNIGHT INTRUDER (C. Palmer, USA)

Special Prize of the Gessellschaft der Staudenfreunde: STAR SEARCH (A & D Willott, USA)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded Iris:

1. PENNIES (D. Sindt, USA)
2. GOLD CANARY (A & D Willott, USA)
3. NADIA FAVIO (E. Heimann, Germany)
4. SNOW CUP (D. Sindt, USA)
5. KLEINE TOMMY (E. Heimann, Germany)
6. KLEINE SONNE (E. Heimann, Germany)

Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris

1. VIOLET LASS (P. Dyer, USA)
2. PEOPLE PLEASER (A. Ensminger, USA)
3. FROSTED ANGEL (T. Blyth, Australia)
4. LITTLE LOUIE (P. Black, USA)
5. GE AUGA LAKE (A. & D. Willott, USA)
6. GRAPE ORBIT (A. & D. Willott, USA)
7. WESTAR (P. Dyer, USA)
8. CHUBBY CHEEKS (P. Black, USA)
9. ZWEIKLANG (E. Heimann, Germany)

Intermediate and Border Bearded Iris:

1. MARY JOHNS (L. Donnell, Australia)
2. RED ZINGER (P. Black, USA)
3. COUNTRY BLUES (B. Blyth, Australia)
4. ASHANTI (B. Blyth, Australia)
5. MERRY OAKS (A. & D. Willott, USA)
6. JOLLY JESTER (A. & D. Willott, USA)

Arilbred

1. SANUM (F. Kummert, Austria)

American Iris Society Conventions

1989	Memphis, TN	April 29-May 3
1990	Omaha, NE	May 20-24
1991	Washington DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994	Portland, OR	
1995	Hershey, PA	

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR IRISES FLORENCE, ITALY 1988

Premio Firenze: Gold Florin (not awarded)

Silver Medal (not awarded)

Silver Plate

3. GINGER SWIRL (Schreiners, USA)

Silver Medal

4. ROYAL CRUSADER (Schreiners, USA)

Honorable Mention

5. SEA OF JOY (Schreiners, USA) and
FEMININE WILES (J. Nelson, USA)
7. M80-714C (M. Dunn, USA) Now named SILHOUETTE

Special Awards

Coppa Regione Toscana, for the hybridizer with the most winning varieties in the top five: Schreiners, USA

Piatto D'argento comune di Firenze, for the best red: DANGER (J. Gatty, USA)

Coppa Camera di Commercio for the most commercial variety: LAREDO (K. Keppel, USA)

Coppa Louise Branch, for the variety with the best branching: GINGER SWIRL (Schreiners, USA)

Coppa Societa Amici Dei Fiori: for the best Italian entry: MIYO (Sergio Bacci, Italy)

Coppa Alba Balbi Valier for the best pink: BUCHHOLZER TRAUMEREI (Harald Moos)

Coppa Piaggio, for the best early variety: B82-784S (STARMaster) (B. Dunn, USA)

Coppa Garden Club Di Firenze for the most original color: WITCH'S WAND (B. Blyth, Australia)

Coppa Garden Club Di Perugia for the most scented variety: ROYAL CRUSADER (Schreiners, USA)

Coppa Garden Club Di Grosseto for the best garden variety: EDITH WOLFORD (B. Hager, USA)

Coppa Del Garden Club Di Arezzo for the best late variety: PARIS KISS (B. Blythe, Australia)

Weather conditions in Italy prevented this year's judges from making selections of more award winners. An extremely mild winter, followed by almost continuous rainfall from November until the competition began caused the irises to give performances that were far below par. For this reason, no first or second place award was given, and no border bearded award was given.

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY: Send to The American Iris Society, Jeane Stayer, Secretary, 7414 E. 60th St., Tulsa, OK 74145.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION: Send to AIS Foundation, Richard T. Pettijohn, Treasurer, 2510 S. 148th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Note: please include name and address of next-of-kin pertaining to memorial gifts, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Checks should be payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation.

Gifts To the American Iris Society

January 11, 1988 to June 27, 1988

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR:

Dovie Brady (TX)

North Plains Iris Society (TX)

Helen Brown (TX)

North Plains Iris Society (TX)

Lois G. Brown (TX)

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Grace Brown (IL)

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OTHER GIFTS:

Greater Kansas City Iris Society
(MO)

For Computer Fund:

Dorothy Guild (WA)



Nancy Perkins' Convention Garden in Oklahoma

CONVENTION AWARDS

President's Cup

Awarded to an iris hybridized by someone from the host region, in this case, Region 22. This can be any iris seen blooming in the convention gardens so long as its hybridizer is from the host region.

LATIN HIDEAWAY (Hooker Nichols) 232 votes

Runnersup

WINDSONG WEST (Hooker Nichols)	33	BUBBLING LACE (Paul Black)	25
UNDERSEA ADVENTURE (Paul Black)	30	GLITZ N GLITTER (Paul Black)	22

Franklin Cook Cup

Awarded to an iris created by a hybridizer from outside the host region and seen blooming in the convention gardens.

BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (Jack & Glenda Norrick) 84 votes

Runnersup

Orbiter (Terry Aitken)	49	Congratulations (Keith Keppel)	16
Ginger Swirl (Schreiners)	30	Cover Story (Louise Bellagamba)	16
Batik (Allan Ensminger)	28	Divine (Mary Dunn)	16
Crystal Glitters (Schreiners)	26	Winemaster (Keith Keppel)	15
Everything Plus (Niswonger)	20		

Favorite Guest Irises

Dorothy Howard

Ballots were returned from 354 visitors to the convention in Oklahoma City. Many varieties received votes, including SDB, IB, MTB, BB, Louisiana, and Siberian. The top twenty-five varieties are listed below, followed by those which received several votes but did not make the list.

Votes	Variety	Hybridizer	Votes	Variety	Hybridizer
192	Latin Hideaway	Nichols	75	Precious Moments	Gatty
164	Bumblebee Deelite	Norrick	75	Windsong West	Nichols
138	Batik	Ensminger	74	Blowtorch	Byers
132	Orbiter	Aitken	74	Cover Story	Bellagamba
120	Fanfaron	Hager	73	Loyalist	Schreiners
114	Crystal Glitters	Schreiners	68	Altruist	Schreiners
93	Bubbling Lace	Black	66	Smart Aleck	Gatty
93	Everything Plus	Niswonger	65	Congratulations	Keppel
92	First Communion	Bartlett	65	Orange Slices	Niswonger
84	Ginger Swirl	Schreiners	63	Jazzebel	Ensminger
83	Change of Heart	Keppel	62	Loyal Devotion	Waltermire
80	Winemaster	Keppel	61	Glitz N Glitter	Black
75	Divine	M. Dunn			

56: Codicil, Montevideo; 53: Evening Gown; 52: Cafe Society; 51: Twist of Fate; 50: Fine China, Planned Treasure, Silver Crown; 48: Designer Gown, Edith Wolford, Lady Vanessa; 47: Good Show, Undersea Adventure; 46: Blazing Sunrise, New Wave, Vision in Pink; 45: Embellishment; 43: Chocolate Royale, Lurid; 42: Faraway Places; 40: Sleighing Song



BATIK

CONVENTION CUP WINNERS



PRESIDENT'S CUP

LATIN HIDEAWAY
Hooker Nichols

FRANKLIN COOK CUP

BUMBLEBEE DEELITE

Jack and Glenda
Norrick





SOONER STATE '88

Evelyn Jones (Oregon)

In 1984 I attended the fall meeting of Region 22 and heard Ron's plans for Oklahoma '88. I knew then the convention would be a success if the weather would cooperate and the irises would bloom when they should. The irises were at peak bloom and the weather cooperated. We were in Oklahoma City five days and not once did we hear the sirens for a tornado alert which dispelled our impressions that there is a tornado in Oklahoma every day. The light shower on Saturday did not seem to dampen anyone's eagerness to see the gardens.

With a registration of approximately 750, the AIS was represented from all regions. In the past, we have had two and sometimes three foreign countries represented, but this year five countries were represented.

The guest gardens were well landscaped and the irises were well grown. In every garden we were aware of the preparation and hard work that had gone into making a pleasing atmosphere while viewing the irises. There was a wide variety of gardens — from a neat well kept planting in a city garden to large plantings in the country.

The master planting was at the O.S.U. Tech garden, and we visited here each day. I especially enjoyed going there because I was able to see some early and some late blooming irises that I would not have seen otherwise.

I will remember Oklahoma '88 with fond memories — so many old friendships renewed — new friendships started — the sharing of iris knowledge — offers to share plants — to sit quietly on the bus and listen to lively conversations — all a part of the happy scene. I would go back tomorrow.

I can't conclude without commenting on the transportation, and I can't say enough on how well organized Larry Stayer and his committee kept the buses on schedule. Another committee we were so appreciative of was the one that saw to it we had lots and lots of goodies in each garden (whether we needed them or not).

Oklahoma, Ron and all your hard working committees — our hats are off to you for a job WELL DONE ! ! !

OSU Master Planting

Jim Morris (Missouri)

The convention master planting was located at Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City Campus, Technical Branch. It was within a few blocks of the convention headquarters hotel. The amiable host and hostess, Jim Hawley and Peggy Estes, were always available to guide visitors and to answer their questions. Jim informed me that the iris beds were not fertilized, but to use an Oklahoma colloquialism, were "amended".

The theory behind visiting a master planting of all guest plants on each of three separate days (which we did) is to attempt to see all varieties under different conditions. The latter was also accomplished as the weather varied from relative calm (for Oklahoma) with bright sunshine and heat (red hot!) to 20 plus mile-per-hour winds, scattered clouds and a nip in the air to bring out the jackets. The irises were grown in raised beds in an open area without wind breaks. The iris markers were made by Jim Hawley and his daughter Karen Hirsh. They were painted a pleasing shade of green and used stick-on lettering sprayed with a clear lacquer.

In addition to the iris guest planting, the OSU garden was also an Official Display Garden for All American Selections of verbena, coreopsis, petunias, shasta daisies, dianthus, basil, snapdragons and celosia. They made nice companion plantings to king irises.

It was very interesting to me to compare iris bloom each of the three days and my notes revealed that the best was saved for last. There was more bloom by variety count on the third day than on the first, and the winds subsided so that the garden could be better enjoyed.

The only disappointment here was the disaster in the Siberian planting with but sixteen varieties *alive* out of 100 planted. We named this the Trail of Tears bed after the infamous U.S. government forced removal of the Cherokee Indians in the winter of 1838-39 from the southern Appalachian Mountains of the Carolinas, to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). It is worth noting those hardy varieties that made it through the Oklahoma winters of 1986-87 and 1987-88 and even bloomed. They are MAGGIE LEE (Bellagamba 78), MABEL CODAY (Helsey 85), SPIRIT OF YORK (Bush), CATHY CHILDERTON (D. Johnson 88), PRESIDENT TRUMAN (Bellagamba 84), and four Bob Hollingworth varieties: LADY VANESSA (86), HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (86), INDY (85), and WINDWOOD SPRING (84). There was also one versicolor, MINT FRESH (Warburton).

Of course, with our visit being May 5, 6 and 7 we saw peak bloom on tall bearded irises together with border bearded and miniature tall bearded. There were also the last remaining blooms on some intermediate bearded irises.

Now I would like to invite you to sit back and relax as I lead you through a kaleidoscope of pastel and sherbet, clouds, smoke and bubbles of those iris varieties that attracted, astounded, shocked or otherwise caught this writer's eye.

BUBBLY BLUE (Aitken 86) was an aptly named, excellent light blue IB, SCENTED BUBBLES (Byers 88) is a medium blue, well-formed flower with space age horns. CALIPH (Ghio 87) is a huge bright brown showing its COPPER CLASSIC parentage. PLANNED TREASURE (Burger 85) was a bit small here but is a great flower. The standards are basically flesh pink with white falls washed purple. Difficult to describe but stunning to the eye.

LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols 86), the President's Cup Winner, was more impressive in other gardens than here, but showed well in lavender over garnet red. You won't mistake it for anything else in the garden. The same can be said in capital letters about the wild GLITZ 'N GLITTER (P. Black 88). It has medium yellow standards, but the flash is in the predominantly purple falls with yellow spotting, blending and edging. You have to see this one for yourself to decide whether or not you like it.

EDITH WOLFORD (Hager 86) was performing nicely in its pleasing (to me) yellow over medium blue-violet. It has good branching with large, well-proportioned and ruffled flowers. This was my first time to see NEWLYWED (Ghio 88) as it brought to mind the impending marriage May 27 of our daughter Suzanne. Nicely laced, this iris is sort of smokey lavender-fuchsia in color. Describing it is as difficult as planning a wedding. GIGOLO (Keppel 84) was outstanding all three days. It is so unique it is another you just have to see for yourself. It is sort of a yellow-orange ground color with raspberry plicata marking on the falls. Simply stunning. PEASANT DANCE (Helsley 85) had great show stalks with standards of chablis-tan and the falls plicated red-violet.

ALTRUIST (Schreiner 87) is a delightful iris that appears very fresh in its powder blue with chalk white infusion. And it has excellent stalks. BLOW-TORCH (Byers 86) is ruffled and showy! It has yellow-gold standards, banded yellow falls over white. But, of course, the "blowtorch" effect results from the red beards that extend into lavender-blue flounces. SLEIGHING SONG (Robinson 84) is a ruffled, shimmering silver-white with a hint of lavender and a yellow beard. It has great garden value and a delightful fragrance. CURI-
OUS YELLOW (Durrance 82) is a bit older but impressive in bright yellow-gold.

MUSIC BOX DANCER (Roderick 84) is a violet self BB with orange-red beards and was showing nicely within class. PURGATORY (Moore 87) has bronze standards, and red-black falls with a gold beard. I normally don't like to comment on seedlings in a varietal listing, but I'll make an exception with the unusual iris by Francis Rogers identified as F211-B. The late Dorothy Palmer would refer to this one as a "kook". It has copper standards, wine red falls edged copper, golden-orange beards with marking around the beard area. Although a bit narrow, it really shows up and made an impressive clump.

WINEMASTER (Keppel 86) is a ruffled wine red with old gold beards that shows up well from across the garden. RED LION (Hager 87) is a vibrant red

self that makes an excellent clump and is much more colorful in Oklahoma than in its home state of California. COLORTART (Innerst 83) was growing a tad short here in its medium yellow trimmed burgundy red. ROUND TABLE (Ghio 87) has tan brown standards and falls that appear yellow ground with brown plicata stitching and a bright gold spot. FOOLISH FANCY (Hager 85) was doing well in rose-pink with plicata markings and a white blaze in the falls.

ORBITER (Aitken 85) was showing very nicely in royal purple. CRYSTAL GLITTERS (Schreiner 85) was located at probably the windiest corner in the garden and how it remained standing in the gale was impressive. It is a pastel creamy peach-pink that I like. BLACKOUT (Luihn 86) is a tailored purple-black that didn't like the wind. By contrast, SATIN SATAN (Weiler 86), another purple-black, withstood the wind very well.

In display gardens sometimes one hybridizer is lucky and another is not so lucky. It was interesting to note two variegatas planted side-by-side, FANFARON (Hager 87) and MIXED DOUBLES (Ghio 86). Fanfaron was thriving with six bloom stalks of normal size while Mixed Doubles had but one short bloom stalk. MAUVELOUS (Byers 88), thank you Billy Crystal, is a smokey mauve-pink coloration with horned blue beards tipped red-orange. Very impressive and it attracted crowds. EAGLES'S FLIGHT (Schriener 86) went on my "must-have" list. It is basically a two-toned plicata done up in rose-lavender standards and darker rose-grape falls.

JENNIFER REBECCA (Zurbrigg 85) is touted as a superstar reblooming TB. It was doing quite well here. A laced lavender pink or mauve pink with a bright tangerine beard. SNOWBROOK (Keppel 86) was excellent in white edged blue around the falls. TANGERINE DREAM (J. Nelson 86) is a medium orange with a big bright tangerine beard. FARAWAY PLACES (Keppel 88) is a ruffled smokey red-brown blend that was performing well. YUBBLEGUM (Innerst 83) is a laced peach-pink.

KISSING CIRCLE (Stevens) is a medium lavender-purple plicata that is a blooming fool. HONOR BOUND (Gass 84) is a white with a yellow beard tipped white and displaying excellent stalks. VISION IN PINK (Wood 87) is a flared light pink with a pleasing fragrance. SORCERESS (Keppel 82) displayed multiple stalks and gorgeous flowers of peach with red-violet plicata marking on the falls. DIVINE (M. Dunn 88) is a bitone somewhat similar to MYSTIQUE but with white around the beard.

SMART ALECK (Gatty 88) displayed somewhat of an odd color combination with old gold standards and red-black falls and a mustard beard. FINE CHINA (Gatty 86) is a wide ruffled white. DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiner 86) is an impressive black purple but with low bud count here. VERISMO (Hager 87) is a ruffled red-brown which held its color well in the hot sun. WILD OATS (Durrance 83) has pale orange standards with red-violet "hafty" falls edged orange, and vivid apricot beards. It was well-branched and growing well here.

FORTUNE TELLER (Corlew 86) has white standards while the falls have a light violet plicata pattern with yellow beards. EVENING GOWN (Ghio 87) is a deep royal purple self with nice form and ruffling. MAHOGANY RUSH

(Williamson 85) is a very good mahogany red self with old gold beards. CHANGE OF HEART (Keppel 86) grows short but is very appealing. It has rosy peach blended standards over the same color falls heavily marked at the hafts in burgundy. It is very different. ZANY (M. Dunn 88) rounds out the TBs reported here. It is a heavily marked bright lavender-blue on white plicata. The fall edges appear to be banded.

A short review of some smaller varieties finds LITTLE ME (Hager 88), a pink MTB, looking nice. NEW WAVE (Hager 86) is a clean white tetraploid MTB with good stalks. CRYSTAL RUFFLES (Dunderman 86) was the most impressive new (to me) and modern, ruffled MTB I saw this year. ROSEMARY'S DREAM (Dunderman 82), a rosy plicata on white, continues to impress.

Three days of viewing the flowers under varying conditions produced these comments on 64 varieties. It was a real test of the 2000 plus guest irises and a compliment to those selected. Yet experience tells me that another reviewer might well see an entirely different grouping as most impressive. So be it. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. These were the beauties I saw.



Hooker Nichols and President's Cup winner, Latin Hideaway.

O.S.U. Tech Garden

Carol Warner (Maryland)

The master planting for the Oklahoma City Convention was located at Oklahoma State University Technical Institute with Peggy Estes and Jim Hawley responsible for maintaining this planting. The site was also home for an All-American Test Garden for flowers, vegetables, and herbs. There is also a huge greenhouse filled with interesting plants grown by the horticulture students. A bright yellow flowered geranium attracted attention in the greenhouse until it was found to be spray-painted! More and more white began to show on the painted blooms as new flowers opened on successive days.

This section of Oklahoma is extremely flat and has tremendous winds. The wind velocity proved to be a factor in how the irises were going to look after three days. Our bus captain remarked after the group "blew" back on the bus, "If it was standing; it was strong."

All of the irises were planted in raised beds with stone walkways throughout, giving excellent opportunity to view or photograph the plants. Growth and bloom were superb. For my set of buses this was the first and last garden we saw. The three days brought many changes and lots more bloom; however, many first impressions of beauty lasted.

Mary Dunn's '88 introduction, **DIVINE** was divine. A purple bitone with a distinct white halo on the falls, it carried eight buds on each of five well-branched stalks. Noteworthy also was the unusual amount of purple coloring in the stalks of this iris. Its excellent garden value and performance in other gardens earned it my vote for the Cook Cup.

FANFARON (Hager '87), with its bright yellow standards and deep rust-red falls trimmed with a yellow edge, caught my eye immediately. Again with eight buds and six stalks in the clump, I could see why it also did well in many gardens. Hager's **GOOD SHOW**, a smooth bright orange self with deeper beard, had excellent color. Flowers were large, blocky and ruffled. This variety also seemed to have very nice clean foliage in this garden. **NEW WAVE**, an '86 MTB, a nice wide white self, was branched for show stalks but also a great garden clump. The flowers might be considered a little large but were in good proportion. **LITTLE ME**, a Hager '88 MTB was a nice clean pink with tangerine beard.

NAVAJO JEWEL (Weiler '84), is a light blue self. Its large blooms have excellent form. The outstanding bud placement and six stalks assured bloom for a long time.

Joe Ghio's introduction, **CAFE SOCIETY**, was a unique butterscotch or coffee yellow self. Again eight buds on each of the four stalks was impressive. Ghio's **CHUCKLES**, an '87 introduction with pink standards and rose-stitched white falls, was lovely.

Keith Keppel had several good introductions. **WINEMASTER**, a ruffled deep velvety red-wine TB had wonderful smooth color and was nicely branched. This stood in the wind, but its weaker substantiated flowers did tear

at 30 miles per hour. **EVER AFTER** ('86) again wine red with orange beards had heavy substance. **CONGRATULATIONS** ('83) still attracted interest. **RUSTLER** ('88) 81-95B, with tan standards and smooth mahogany falls with a rim, had excellent color but was poorly branched here. **LOGO** ('86) carries the spot pattern from SDB's into the IB class. It is butterscotch with a purple spot in the plicata form.

SMART ALECK (Gatty '88) was outstanding for the segregation of color between standards and falls. Standards are a clean yellow gold and the falls a smooth deep dark maroon. Well branched stalks stood only about 28" tall. Flowers seemed to have good substance, but bud count may be a little low.

Schreiner's **GINGER SWIRL** ('85) was an impressive clump with eight stalks. It has ginger-brown standards and the falls are light lavender in the center with a wide ginger-brown rim. **DUSKY CHALLENGER** had tremendous flowers with heavy substance. **LOYALIST** brilliant purple flowers with blue overlay, was well branched. My favorite in this garden and in several others was **CRYSTAL GLITTERS**. Its pale creamy peach color was delightful.

Other irises which I noted included **SLEIGHING SONG**, (Robinson '84); **LOYAL DEVOTION**, (Waltermire '82); **CORAL LIGHT**, (Niswonger '83); **HEARTLIGHT**, (Nelson '88); **STERLING PRINCE** and **COLORTART** by Innerst; **SCENTED BUBBLES**, (Byers '88); **CRANBERRY CRUSH**, (Aitken '86); **CRYSTAL RUFFLES**, an MTB by Dunderman '86; **BUMBLEBEE DEE-LITE**, an MTB by Norrick '86; **BROTHER CARL** and **JENNIFER REBECCA**, rebloomers by Zurbrigg.

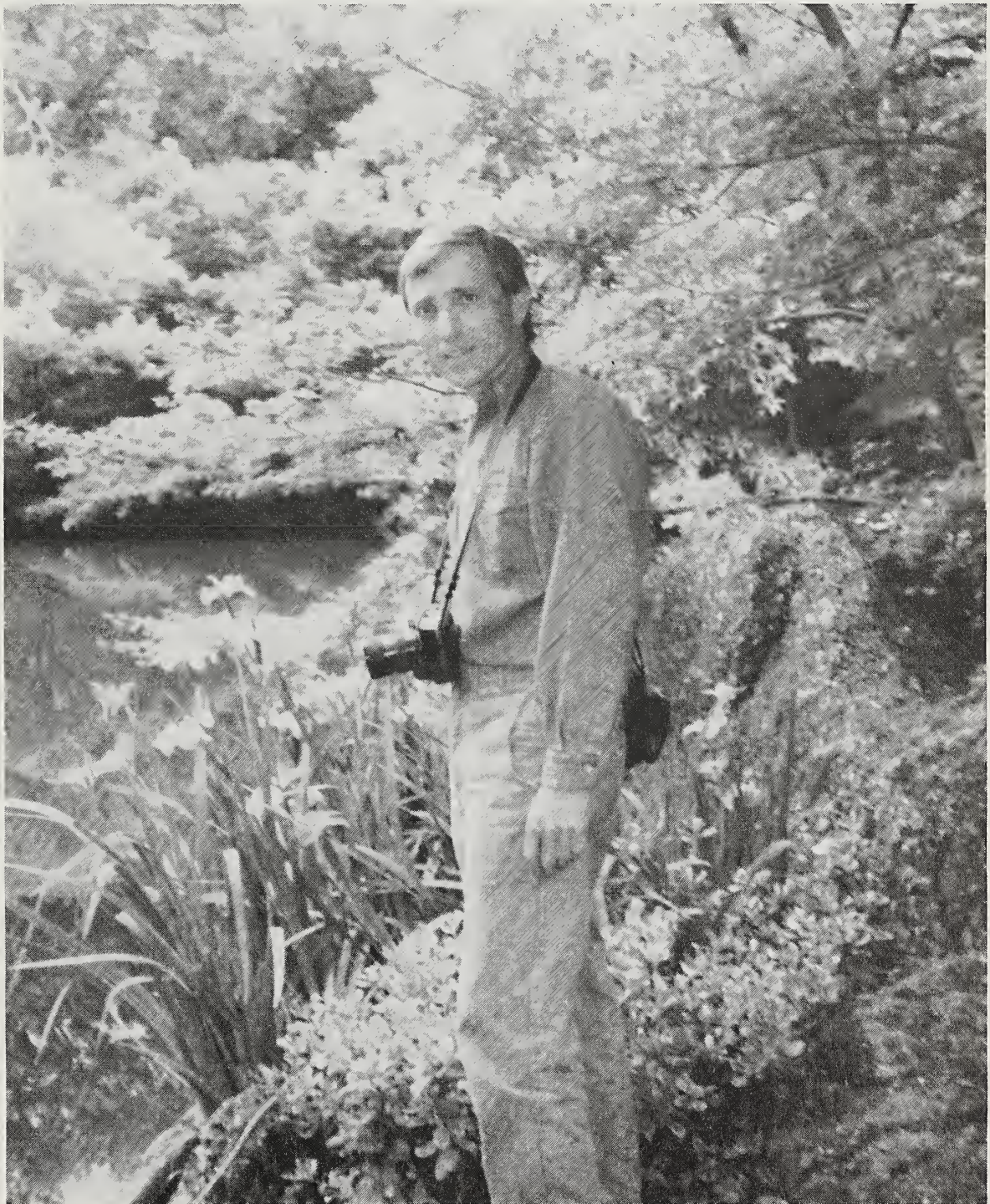


OSU garden hosts Jim Hawley and Peggy Estes.

LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols '86) was a very nice clump in this garden, as well as many others, earning it the President's Cup.

Seedlings of note were Weiler's **82-107-11**; Black's **8343 A** (BB); and Gartman's **1B1-27P**. The **DON'T KNOW** seedling by Sexton-Black was great. It has deep yellow standards and rust falls with a yellow band. The five stalks were nicely branched.

Siberians are my first love but here just to live was an accomplishment! **WINDWOOD SPRING**, (Hollingworth '85) was a light blue with a white flash. **LADY VANESSA**, ('86) showed a unique contrast of color of styles. **INDY** and **HELIOTROPE BOUQUET** lived, bloomed, and showed attractive color.



Conventioneer Eberhard Schuster of East Germany at Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



J.D. and Leona Spence

The Spence Garden

Marg & Don Saxton (Alabama)

The garden of J.D. and Leona Spence was visited on the first day of Convention tours, Thursday, May 5. Their garden is located in Norman, Oklahoma, near Lake Thunderbird. The garden consists of terraces laboriously carved from a slope which drops maybe sixty feet from the entrance road to the lowest garden level. There were a half dozen or so terraced levels of iris beds between large cedar trees. At the top, near the entrance to the garden, were beds edged with flat pieces of rock standing on edge. The beds on the left side contained mostly non-guest irises of recent vintage, while the bed on the right side contained guest irises. Vernon Wood's EASTER SONG, Walt Luihn's CHICO MAID, and Terry Aitken's ORBITER were showing off at this level. Here, we got our first look at BUMBLEBEE DEELITE, an outstanding MTB by Jack and Glenda Norrick, which won the President's Cup for best non-host Region guest.

It was apparent immediately that this garden was at perfect peak bloom and the irises were grown extremely well. This first impression was only reinforced as one proceeded down the slope, terrace by terrace. We were quickly greeted by Boy Scouts acting as garden hosts and giving assistance where needed. The second tier contained a large guest iris bed edged with railroad ties. Drawing attention in this bed were Dave Niswonger's ARABIAN TAPESTRY and EVERYTHING PLUS. Joe Ghio's GOLD COUNTRY was the brightest thing in the garden (and wonderful form too). DAREDEVIL, Keith Keppel's 1988 introduction, played to our personal preference for plicatas. Here, among the other lovely guests, we found our own SPACELAB growing as good as we have ever seen it.

On down the slope a little farther was a bed of ground cover plants the shape of Oklahoma edged with flat stones. This occupied a terrace held in place by vertical log segments and bordered by a path made of crosscut slices from a large tree. Next in descending order was a bed devoted to all winners of the Dykes Medal. Many of the earlier winners were standing tall and proud, comparing quite favorably with today's newest.

Continuing on down the hill, we came to more guest iris plantings in long beds held in place by concrete retaining walls and interspersed with larkspur and candy tuft. Beside the steps leading down to this level was a rock garden featuring pansies and columbine. In this lower guest iris bed we liked two of Paul Black's introductions COCOA PUFF and CARPETBAGGER. Hooker Nichols' ETCHED VIVIDLY was putting on a show. Guest seedlings we noted were Bob Brown's 4180 and Mary Dunn's M80-730A.

The lower two large terraces contained the rowed out commercial plantings of the Spence Garden. The lower half of the slope provides a superb vista, equally beautiful from the top or bottom viewpoint. All the terraced beds comprise about one acre of irises. Our stay at this garden was much too short to absorb all its hard wrought beauty (why do they always make up lost time by reducing the stay time at the best garden?).



Convention guests who made it past the guest iris beds to the bottom of the hill at the Spence Garden were greeted by this sea of flowers.

Spence Garden

Dean Brand (Oklahoma)

"Just Like Living in Paradise" must be the theme song of J. D. and Leona Spence. In the rolling hills of Central Oklahoma just east of Norman, the Spences with the help of son Jerry, 18, have molded this fabulous garden from a rocky hillside. The Spences have lived at this location 17 years and have been growing irises for about ten years but have created the back gardens over just the last four and one half years. Incredible! They were also heavily involved in Boy Scout activities for about eight years which explains all the Scouts on hand to direct convention traffic. Son Jerry is an Eagle Scout.

The garden is dominated by irises, however, large plantings of sweet rocket, lupines, petunias, columbines, and other plants complement the irises. Rocks dug from the back of the property, where long rows of older varieties now grow, have been used to build terraced beds, paths, and to provide a backdrop for a lovely pond. Ingenious use has been made of the timber which had to be cleared for the garden. Rings cut from tree stumps serve as pathways, several decorative stumps are used as planters for petunias and marigolds, and one long, raised bed is bordered with upright pieces of stump in varying heights. Guest irises were planted in raised beds bordered with railroad ties.

Irises, irises everywhere. Here we saw magnificent clumps of everything from the oldies WABASH (1936) and MAJORETTE (1953) to the newest guest irises. A complete (except for one) Dykes bed was beautiful with BRIDE'S HALO (Mohr 73), MARY FRANCES (Gaulter 73), PINK TAFFETA (Rudolph 68) and WINTER OLYMPICS (O. Brown 63) really showing off and proving their right to be acclaimed among the best there is.

Guest irises which were performing exceptionally well in this garden included:

CHICO MAID (Luihn 85) pale blue with dark blue beards with eleven stalks standing four feet high.

EASTER SONG (Wood 85) is a nice medium pink.

SILVERADO (Schreiners 87) Well formed silvery blue. Only one bloom was open, but it had show stalks galore.

ORBITER (Aitken 85) a deep violet self which looked good in several gardens.

ROBUSTO (Black 85) showy orange with bushy beards.

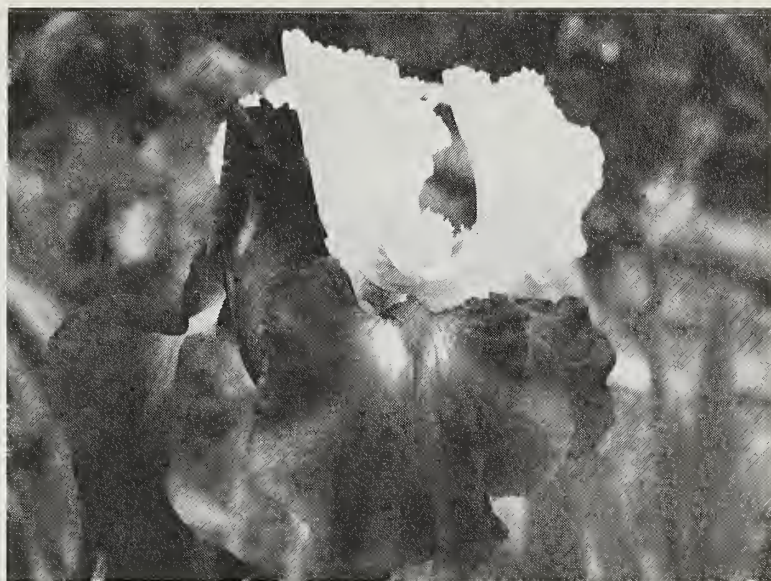
AZTEC TREASURE (R & L Miller 84) dark chrome yellow with faint plicata markings at haft.

GOLD COUNTRY (Ghio 87) brilliant gold. Big and bold.

MORGAN RAIDER (Slade 88) White standards and white and blue blended falls. Different.

BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (Norricks 86) an MTB with golden standards and near black falls with a narrow gold edge. This clump got this little fellow off to a running start in its successful quest for the Cook Cup.

DIVINE
(Mary Dunn)



EVERYTHING PLUS (Niswonger 83) a SPINNING WHEEL type plicata with blue white standards and deep violet fall markings. Bold bronze tipped beards. Tops!

MARRIAGE VOWS (Ghio 87) Light pink standards over blue white falls with lacy pink edges.

ETCHED VIVIDLY (Nichols 88) white with narrow plicata edging of purple.

BORDERLINE (Ghio 83) border bearded. Flowers were a little large for a border, but this is a real gem. White standards and clean yellow falls with a white beard. Ruffles all over.

DANGER (Gatty 84) deep red without that clashing gold beard so many in this color class seem to have. Excellent wide form.

OLYMPIAD (Ghio 84) still the best of the blue and white combinations from this master hybridizer.

CREAMY FRENCH (Black 86) luscious creamy orange with bright orange beards.

CHUCK WALTERMIRE (Waltermire 85) is a nice medium blue.

CRYSTALYN (B. Dunn 86) hard to improve on the white irises on the market, but this one seems to have a little something extra. Excellent show stalks, of course.

MOMENTUM (M. Dunn 86) though not new to me, this was my favorite iris seen at the convention. It was performing great in almost all gardens visited and received my vote for the Cook Cup even though I knew it would not win as it was not listed as a guest. (Remember SUPERSTITION in Seattle?) MOMENTUM is another SPINNING WHEEL child of white narrowly stitched blue on the standards and violet on the falls. Lovely wide form and with the super branching expected from a Mary Dunn introduction.

A seedling which caught my eye in this garden, as well as other gardens, was D-82-25 from Durrance. It is a light yellow with great form, one of those quiet heart stealers we come across from time to time.

Well, too much to see and too little time. I'm sure one would need a week to see everything in this garden and to do justice to it in a report, but alas, we only had 45 minutes and the whistle blew.

Spence Garden

David Hooten (New Mexico)

The horticulturist and landscaper's dreams come true in the J.D. Spence garden. Much braun and muscle has been put into this show garden for the AIS tour, but not only for the AIS convention attendees, but for the everyday enjoyment of the Spences and their many friends who come to call. The 2.5 acres of land was beautifully landscaped with natural sloping terrain and the use of natural rock formations. This all enhanced the over-all effect of this show garden. The different levels of terracing the floral gardens certainly added much.

The irises were in excellent display beds we all could easily walk around and view the various plantings. The accent flowers planted in the gardens added a riot of color along with the irises which were in peak bloom. Anyone who fancies feasting on the many different types of plants in a given garden area were certainly not displeased at this garden spot. The tall sweet rockets were in full bloom. Clovescented dianthus, poppies, pansies, columbines, peonies, larkspurs, gallardia, dutch iris, petunias, coral bells, and various ground covers, especially the effective use of strawberries, (and the red berries) were displayed all through the iris plantings, creating a very effective and showy companion planting. In the terraced beds, you could even find lettuce being used as a border-edge planting, a very good thought: you get tired of it, just put it in a salad.

Other major horticultural efforts which captured this AIS viewer's eyes were the areas landscaped into the natural drainage ditch area down the hillside. The ornamental grasses were grown in top condition. The many types of Siberian and Louisianas were planted along-side the fish pond. Although they were not in full flower, the effect was there and the waterlily would have caught your eye.

On my way around the last trek up the hillside, I stopped by the Sir Harry Lauder Walking Stick, or better known to others as cork screw witch-hazel, that is an excellent specimen grown for its contorted and twisted frame of twigs and branches.

It may sound as if I enjoyed everything else but the irises; not so. I found myself oohing and aahing at the irises in full array of their individual personalities like everyone else. I zeroed in on Paul Black's BEAUTIFUL SURPRISE, Carl Boswell's LITTLE BIT ORCHID, Stan Dexter's FRED A LAURA, Sterling Innerst's STERLING PRINCE, Carl Jorgenson's SUMMIT SATIN, Bernice Miller's JUBILANT PSALM, Dave Niswonger's EVERYTHING PLUS, Schreiners' OLYMPIC CHALLENGE, George Slade's MORGAN RAIDER—the list could go on and on, but we all have our favorites. These are a few which caught my eye and the gardens which had older irises were in exquisite bloom as were the guest irises. J.D. and Leona Spence, all I can say is that, "*you done good,*" Better Homes and Gardens just missed out on your garden. *Thanks* for giving me an opportunity to share in and enjoy your hard efforts.

Marthella Shoemake Garden

Ramona Howard (Texas)

On Thursday morning of the convention, the second garden we visited was that of Marthella Shoemake in Nicoma Park. Her spacious garden was in a rural setting with a country home, trees, and flowers of many different kinds. We were greeted with irises blooming in front of her home and in side gardens.

Irises I noticed in the front garden were OSAGE WARRIOR, a large dark purple (Hickerson 85), and WINTER WHITE, a lacy white by B. Brown, (85). In the west side garden were nice specimens of older varieties such as SNOW GODDESS, ACTRESS, TRENCH COAT, FRESNO CALYPSO, GAY PARASOL, MYSTIQUE, and VICTORIA FALLS planted among ground cover and oxalis in a rock garden. Looking absolutely gorgeous was OYEZ, a one-half aril by C. G. White (38).

Marthella has lived in this home and tended her garden since 1967 when she moved her irises from Tulsa. Her daughter, Pat Elliott, served as a hostess in the garden and had helped to prepare and maintain the garden for the convention. Marthella's youngest of three sons (Chris) had built a beautiful oriental style bridge across a two-level pond. The water originated from under the bridge and flowed over pebbles which gave a most relaxing and calming effect. The ponds were stocked with gold fish and six Koi fish, and it was all very attractive.

Near the center of the back garden stood a very large fruitless mulberry tree and there were numerous other trees planted in various locations throughout her entire garden. Elm, Corkscrew Willow, Catalpa, Pines and a native locust with pinkish-lavender blossoms were just a few of them. In a planting on the east side of her back garden were masses of bright red poppies putting on a show with the irises that were blooming. Dovie Brady's WHOOP 'EM UP was looking extremely nice, as was TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiner's 81) their large Bishop's purple and PRAY FOR PEACE (Plough 82), a ruffled white.

Just past the ponds were two beds of hemerocallis planted with irises and a large peony with beautiful "hot pink" blossoms, called Paul Fay. On the west side were fringed tulips along with the irises. There were many interesting plants and well grown shrubs to enhance the overall view. The guest irises were planted at the north end of the garden and they were in excellent condition. Several exceptional ones in bloom were SUNNY AND WARM, (Gatty 87); a heavily ruffled lemon yellow; WESTLAND GOLD, (Simon 85); a laced gold self; LOYALIST, (Schreiner 86), a rich wine; DREAM ON, (L. Michel 85), a ruffled white with yellow veining on the standards and a band of yellow on the falls; STELLAR LIGHTS, (T. Aitken 85), a deep blue-violet with white

spot around the white beard; WOODWARD CENTENNIAL, (Nichols 87), with white standards suffused deep yellow and white falls edged gold; and PRESENCE, (Gatty 87), a mauve-toned light pink. Other irises looking great in her garden were HALL OF FAME, Sexton's salmon pink; Perry Dyer's sunfast yellow, AZTEC SUN; BRASSY BROAD, Paul Black's ruffled brassy gold; PECCADILLO, a creamy peach and SHENANIGAN, a pink with purple wash, border bearded siblings by Keppel 83; BLUE TINTS, (Sellman 85) a cobalt blue; and QUEEN VASHTI by Stevens 83, a ruffled lavender.

When the whistle blew and it was time to leave, I noticed more irises planted along the gravel driveway as I walked to the bus. Several outstanding ones that caught my eye were ELIZABETH MARRISON, (Nichols 87), a beautiful ruffled pink, SPARKLING CHABLIS, (Guild 84), a lovely cool white MTB, and MULLED WINE, (Keppel 82), a pretty raspberry-burgundy tall bearded.

It was certainly a pleasure to visit this garden, but there was not nearly enough time to capture all the different irises and many other varied plants and trees on film.



Deaton Garden

Leda Christlieb (Kansas)

Nicely high-pruned trees gave this garden a park-like look. The ground sloped gently away from the house where refreshment tables were accessible to those entering or leaving. Comfort stations were a welcome sight, though their placement probably put a few gray hairs in the Deatons' heads as I heard that the trucks got stuck and were there for four hours. The beautiful landscaping and nicely-grown irises delighted the visitors' eyes.

My camera "caught" LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols 86) that later received 232 votes for President's Cup, and it was blooming well in every garden. I also found BATIK (Ensminger) BB of violet splotched white that was runner-up for the Cook Cup. MOMENTUM (M. Dunn) had two showstalks with light standards and falls marked dark violet. INSTRUCTOR (Innerst) had four bloomstalks and flowers with ecru standards plicata marked dark red-violet. I also noted BAMA BERRY (Burch) with two bloomstalks of raspberry plicata and MTB LIVELY ROSE (Fisher) very floriferous and his seedling 84-5 with white standards and near-black falls, also floriferous. No wonder BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (Norrick) received the Cook Cup, these MTBs were really showing off!

There's the whistle—time to board the bus for the next garden. Thanks, Deatons, for the tour of your beautiful place!



Black Garden

Bill Rinehart (California)

The Oklahoma countryside was petulant on Friday, all pouty and primed for a good cry. The tears broke loose suddenly as we boarded the bus following the lunch stop at Will Rogers Park. This localized shower vaporized into a sunny smile as we pulled up at the Mid America Gardens of Paul Black. The inevitable rainbow suspended overhead was reproduced in bas relief over the virgin two and one-half acres of peak bloom.

The frontage on North Geraldine was bordered with "triple-rims" of daylilies, peonies and roses. In rows paralleling the border, beds of tall bearded irises were a blazing palette in the area reserved for the "front lawn" in more conventional landscaping. The strawberry rose (the color from the ice cream, not the berry of that name) of cranberry bearded seedling 85139A was the highlight of these beds of many highlights.

To the right of the driveway, rows of what I typically call "reselects" caught and incarcerated my attention. To be introduced in 1989 is seedling 8580D, a true blue amoena with silhouette reminiscent of RUFFLED BALLET. The color, blue being so elusive for hybridizers, will grab your attention. It appears from a single observation that it also is more than a pretty face with great stalks and growth habits.

Showing promise were two very similar peach-pink and red-violet bicolor sibs 85103F and 85103O. On the blooms being compared, "F" had the better standards (more ruffled and domed), while "O" had the more finished, less busy hafts and falls.

Very ruffled and beautifully balanced between volume of stands and falls is a bright yellow seedling 8631A. A blend of lilac and pink with suggestions of yellow could describe Black 86127B. A very nice, ruffled variegata is 8629B, though the wispy, overlong for its width, beard is for me a turnoff.

84162A is a very ruffled bright lemon and cinnamon plicata which I would be delighted to grow—similar to but distinctive from LAREDO and LEMON AND SPICE.

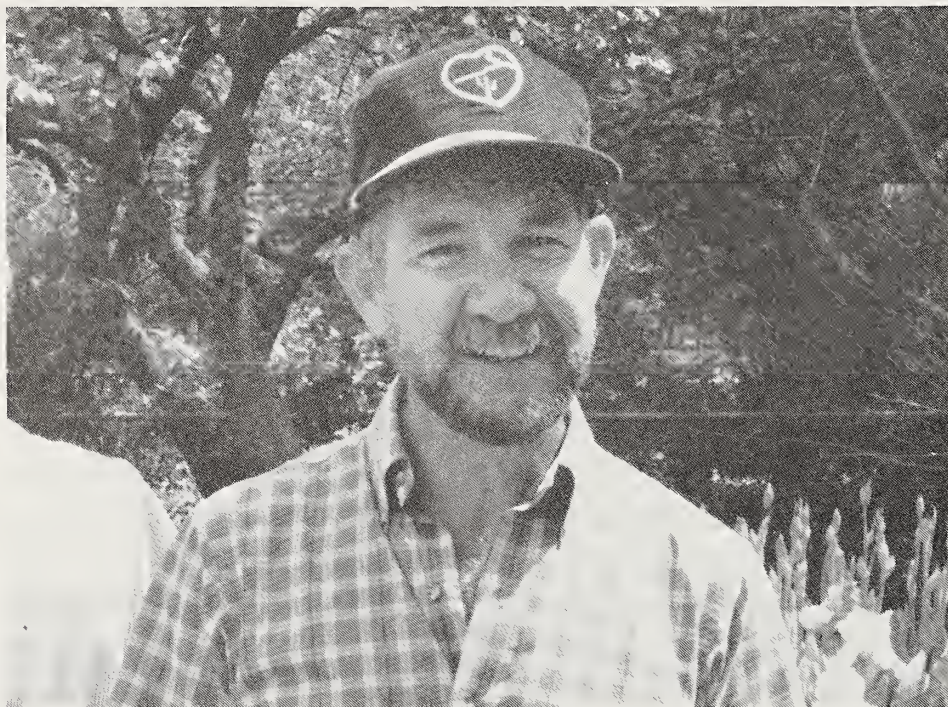
The blue-white self with pronounced white flounces developed by fellow Sooner, Chris Vizvarie, (CRV 20 85A) is a welcome addition to these rows of potential introductions.

All of the host's recent introductions were observed growing contentedly in their home garden. BUBBLING LACE (86) was a large, very lacy blue-white beauty on this date which was superior to many others which are described in similar terms. GLITZ 'N GLITTER is for the irisarian who has everything. The flashy standards are mid-yellow, a brighter yellow beard tops a bib of bright yellow from which ravelings extend the length of the purple fall petals and terminate at the tan-brown edge.

Small trees mark the property lines and provide protection behind the reselect bed for white azaleas and a small very sulphurous *I. pseudacorus*.

Behind the house more beds of irises were showing off for conventioners and other visitors, followed by rows of cultivars grown in groups for commercial purposes. Behind the commercial garden lies an extensive area devoted to "lining" out seedlings.

Returning via the yet unexplored property line, (your left as you face the house from the street) you find more shade, more white azaleas, hostas, strawberries and a very limited assortment of dwarfs, medians and Siberians. In this location I had at first overlooked the arilmede seedling 82298AR with the shade of blue at the hafts found almost exclusively in *I. munzei*.



Paul Black



ORBITER



MOMENTUM

Obviously, progeny of other hybridizers showed well under the nurture of this skilled gardener. ORBITER (Aitken 85) is a rich dark violet that has been on my want list since the Seattle Convention. This was consistently beautiful in every convention garden where it was in bloom. HOUDINI (Maryott 85) is a darker purple with slightly lighter falls—one of the most ruffled of the “black” irises. THRILLER (Schreiner 88) is a bright red-violet of exaggerated luminescence.

This convention, and Paul Black’s garden, reintroduced me to the irises of the late Chuck Waltermire. CHUCK WALTERMIRE (85), FAITHFULNESS (83), and LOYAL DEVOTION (82) are testimony that this gentleman was discriminating as to form. “Devotion,” in Oklahoma at least, would have to be a candidate for the truest light blue available.

MOMENTUM (M. Dunn 86) and JAZZEBEL (Ensminger 88) could be described in identical terms. To do so would be doing a disservice to hybridizers and consumers as this tends to force a choice. There will be room for both in my garden. MOMENTUM is feminine with flushed lilac stands and a pencil-thin violet border on round, very clean white falls. JAZZEBEL is almost conventional and unEnsminger. Its pale lavender-self stands top white falls of big heavy ruffles. The methyl-violet band is broad and the broken purple mid-rib points to a violet tipped gold beard.

Oklahoma is kind to Ben Hager introduced tall-bearded irises. Three of his latest: GLAD RAGS (85) reinforced my conviction that it is one of the two best variegatas. EDITH WOLFORD (87), though not as blue here as in California, and the 1988 introduction WORLD CLASS were among the most charismatic of all clones present. WORLD CLASS is a huge medium red-violet amoena which also passes all tests when you look beyond the flower.

“The waving wheat can sure smell sweet when the wind comes right behind the rain,” but having loaded a few bundle wagons and having fed a hungry threshing machine, grain fields hold little romance for me. Now, if the Il Oscar Hammerstein had attended an AIS convention, the history of musical comedy might have been changed. “Oklahoma, my honey lamb and I” sure enjoyed your party.

Black Garden

Carol Lankow (Washington)

Paul Black's garden is a wonder. Getting a new garden under control in just four years is a good trick. Making a wonderful tour garden for a national convention at the same time leaves me lost in admiration. That represents a lot of very hard work. The garden was a joy for convention throngs. The two guest beds were accessible from both sides and there was a wide grass area between so that one could get a good look at the irises without being jostled.

Across the front of the property was a large bed of Paul's new and future introductions. Everything was beautifully grown. Convention irises are usually well fed, so his IB 85458A was right up there with the talls in height, but it is an attractive violet on white plicata. GLITZ AND GLITTER '88 lives up to its name with yellow standards and falls that streak out to violet with a brown edge. Not exactly refined, but it points up the advantage of an iris that you will always be able to recognize on sight. I think I like it. NAVY WAVES '84 in dark blue with its yellow tipped beard was doing just fine as was stalwart UNDERSEA ADVENTURE with its light blue standards, white falls and its show branching. The dark maroon red color of ROYAL CHANT '86 is very smooth and rich looking. BLAZING SUNRISE '85 joins a growing list of pink and/or orange amoenas and appears to be a stronger grower and freer bloomer than some in the class. SILVER CROWN '87 is very appealing with white standards and violet falls that blend to white edges. There were some attractive seedlings in that bed too. 83321A is a pretty cool lavender toned pink from lavender buds. I especially like 8544B, but I am a pushover for that smokey mauve color. There was a pretty coral orange blend, 85139A, that I heard someone describe as watermelon red. 8450B is a very ruffled honey blend, and all the tags hanging on the orange amoena, 851A, made it resemble a Christmas tree. My particular favorite Black iris at the moment is the IB RED ZINGER. It gets big, but the branching, bud count, and vigor are outstanding, and it was showing off everywhere we saw it.

Paul Black
receives AM
certificate.



The guest beds at the side of the house had more superbly grown irises. As usual, Ben Hager's irises have something special about them. RED LION '86, one of my favorite reds, has a livelier tone than many. The two oranges are an interesting contrast. FRINGE BENEFIT '88 is shorter with round petals all neatly laced and ruffled. GOOD SHOW '88 is a tall, sunny orange that appears to be a stronger grower than many oranges. Brown color doesn't usually draw me, but VERISMO '86 called to me time and time again. A good, distinctive iris. TINTED CRYSTAL '88 is a tall, blue tinted white that is so imposing it is almost intimidating.

Joe Gatty had two that were attractive and very different from one another. LOVELY GLOW '87 is a ruffly pastel apricot that is pinker in the heart. SMART ALECK '88 is a brazen showoff with its very wide petals of rich yellow standards and velvety bright, deep red falls. The color is unusually clean for the class. Terry Aitken's ORBITER '85 is one of the most consistent irises around, and its deep satiny dark violet flowers were showing to advantage in every garden. The flaring ruffled form is all that could be desired. Gene Burger's PLANNED TREASURE '85 is a different and pretty color pattern with pink standards and white falls washed orchid, and all in better than average size. Mary Dunn's DIVINE '88 looked fine with white standards and blue violet falls on excellent stalks. Another with great branching was W. E. Jones' 84-200A a blue bearded ice blue.

Except for BUMBLEBEE DEELITE, medians were not the star attraction at this convention. There were quite a few border bearded irises at this garden; most still in bud and most already too tall. MISS NELLIE remained in class, as usual. Paul's 8343D is a nice, if a bit rough, red that had good size. His 8343A is a nicely colored variegata with brown yellow standards and red violet falls. 8490C is a pretty blue violet with a conspicuous orange beard. 84-230B from Bill Jones is a nice pink with three branches.

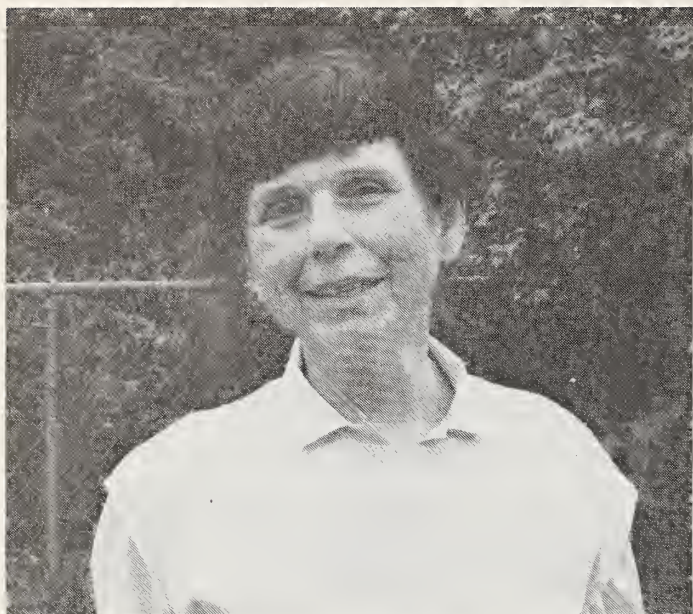
CRYSTAL RUFFLES is the outstanding MTB of the year for me. Pretty, ruffly white flowers on a textbook perfect stem and plant. Wonderfully graceful. Ken Fisher's STRIPED PANTS is another in the variegata coloring so common in the class. Standards are a clear yellow and the red brown striping on the falls is precisely applied. The advantage here is that the falls are shorter and wider than we usually see.

I guess the seedling that Paul heard about the most was a white SDB with a very turquoise spot. Not the ultimate flower, but the color was knocking them dead.

I hope the summer provided at least a few hours for Paul to sit on his patio in the shade of that old pecan tree to contemplate and enjoy the results of his labors.

Start Something Great in Memphis—1989

Prairie in Bloom—Omaha, 1990



Wauzelia
Shelley

Shelley Garden

Mrs. Walter A. (Audrey) Machulak (Wisconsin)

How would you feel about having 200 garden visitors descend on your iris garden one sunny, spring morning? Wauzelia Shelley of Oklahoma City loved every minute of it and was looking forward to having the remaining 500 plus AIS conventioners drop by after the present group bade their farewells. Besides, she was able to get an extra day off from work at the florist shop.

When I introduced myself and told Mrs. Shelley that I would be writing an article for the national bulletin, she led me into her living room of soft blues, oriental rugs, and lovely paintings. Hanging directly in front of me was a painting done by her daughter some eight years ago. The two yellow irises were in an ornate frame, an art museum masterpiece, indeed! In another grouping of pictures at the other end of the room was an iris painted in water colors and framed to give the work a very modern look, this one done by a friend. An atmosphere such as this was certainly conducive to discussing irises.

Mrs. Shelley, a widow, has lived in this home located in a residential area of northwest Oklahoma City for nearly 30 years. Her iris collection of nearly 300 plants includes not only the tall bearded, but Japanese, Louisianas, and a few Spurias as well. Her collection has been acquired through trading with others, ordering from catalogs, and purchasing at auctions. Several irises in her collection are extra special because they were received as gifts from dear friends. She said she intends to increase her collection by adding some medians and dwarfs this year.

Like the typical iris grower, Mrs. Shelley, too, has her share of problems in growing irises. To combat many of her problems she has purchased an electric sprayer and found that its use has helped control the scorch problem in her garden. Due to the large amount of rain this spring, she did find some rot, but feels she now has that under control. The sprayer has been a great

money saver as she also uses it to control the problems encountered by the numerous trees in her yard. The Varnish tree is the most unusual tree; others include crabapple, Japanese maples, dogwoods and pecan trees. The collection of viburnum bushes growing in this yard would make anyone envious.

She is a very active member in the Sooner State Iris Society, but does not currently hold any office. However, the entire membership looks forward to the picnic she hosts each July. She loves to sew, but lately has found little time for this hobby.

After our visit, I went to tour the garden and found the Varnish tree without any problem. There was a crowd gathered there admiring the smooth green bark and the unusual shaped leaves that were just beginning to unfold. From this point in the Shelley garden one could see splashes of color the irises contributed to their surroundings. It was evident that the irises received large amounts of T.L.C. Strong, sturdy bloom stalks, many as high as the fence in the background, were on display for all to admire.

California irises love the Oklahoma soil and JAZZ JUBILEE (Bob Dunn '87) and MOMENTUM (Mary Dunn '84) were good examples. The hefty bloom stalks were well branched, and the 10 bud count was standard. Mrs. Ernst of Cooley's Garden was admiring a clump of CHAPEAU BLANC (Bob Dunn) and commented, "The foliage here looks like the foliage does in Oregon."

WEDDING CAKE (Magee '81) certainly reminded its viewers of brides, grooms and weddings with lovely, full, cream white flowers with very good substance. MORNING THUNDER ('84), by this same hybridizer, drew attention with its unusual pale violet color.

Growing very happily under one of the larger trees was Lilly Gartman's CLASSICO ('84). Nearby, one of AIS's favorite ladies, Bee Warburton, displayed her talent as a hybridizer. Her TYKE ('86), an MTB, was a spectacular exhibition with a goodly amount of flowers for the amount of foliage.



President Rasmussen
and
Keith Keppel
with AM
certificate.

George Shoop
accepting an
award from
President
Rasmussen



Schreiner's CRYSTAL GLITTERS ('85) looked just as exquisite as it does in their catalog. What the catalog doesn't show, however, is the good branching and the clean foliage. Another Schreiner introduction not to be overlooked was SPANISH LEATHER ('85).

An up-and-coming hybridizer from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Francis Rogers, presented one of his seedlings in the Shelley garden. Seedling F211-B (CHIPPEWA BRAVE), a tall bearded variety, sported an interesting color pattern with standards of dark cinnamon and falls of purple black with a cinnamon edge, yet upon closer examination the under side of the falls were a deep green gold. If you are a collector of the "unusuals," watch for this one!

A seedling of Paul Black, B81-116, demands that garden visitors stop for a closer look. In doing so, they are rewarded, much to their surprise, with a pink plic! The interesting shade of pink, the clean growing foliage, and the little added surprise make this an exciting plant. And if pink is your color, be sure to check out ELIZABETH MARRISON (Nichols '87). This gal is not only pink, she is ruffly, has good branching, good form and a good bud count. It could be love at first sight!

Hybridized some years ago in Minnesota by Maybelle Wright and now introduced by the Lankow's of Kirkland, Washington, ICE CAVE ('86), a cool blue white was outstanding. The healthy plant, its beautiful leaves, fair bud count and over-all good form deserved to be on many "want lists."

The garden layout was such that all were able to enjoy the beauty without trampling the flowers or each other. The variety of plant material covered nearly every gardener's interest and the hostess enjoyed our being there. Though considered one of the smaller gardens on tour for the Sooner State 1988 convention, Mrs. Shelley's garden surely had much to offer this group of iris lovers, a garden alive with quality.

Thank you, Mrs. Shelley, for having us as your guests.



Nancy Perkins with sign she designed.

Perkins Garden

Mary Ann Collins (Tennessee)

We Irisarians should have known we were in for a real treat when we saw the unusual "WELCOME" sign announcing the Perkins Garden. Mr. Perkins is in the sign business, aided by his artistically talented wife, Nancy.

Greeting us as we left the bus were huge clumps of Beverly Sills (Ben Hager '79), Tahiti Sunrise (Ernst '63) and our lovely and gracious hostess, Nancy Perkins. You would never have known it was near the end of a long day of welcoming visitors to her yard; we were greeted as though we were the first ones to arrive, and I'm quite sure she was tired but never hesitated to smile and answer the myriad of questions put to her.

The Perkins have lived on this gently sloping three acres for seventeen years but didn't start gardening seriously until ten years ago and since then have created a beautifully landscaped garden. Winding paths separate beds lined with western red cedar flanked with more than fifteen hundred pansies. Nancy did all of the cutting and placing of the cedar pieces. Her artistic abilities are very evident in the flow of the garden. She stated that one path led to another and each year she tackled a new project. The cedar pieces she used to edge the beds of flowers were scraps from her husband's sign business.

The flagstone paths around the large shady pool were filled with visitors admiring the gold fish, koi and water plants. This was of particular interest to me since we also have a pool with goldfish and koi. The shade and the water cascading over the falls created such a restful inviting setting; one could sit

for hours admiring the pool surrounded by beds of lushly grown irises, annuals and perennials. Nearby was a greenhouse with a Christmas cactus in full bloom and a giant red ammaryllis, among other plants.

Sprinkled among the large clumps, and when I say large I mean twenty to thirty bloom stalks, of LEMON PUNCH (Gatty '78), DESIGNER GOWN (Ghio '85), JESSE'S SONG (Williamson '79) and Jim McWhirter's BRANDY were sweet william, thrift, larkspur, dianthus and foxglove. LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols '86), the President's Cup winner, was making a lasting impression. SULTAN'S PALACE (Schreiner '77), CRANBERRY ICE (Schreiner '76), and DUAL ACCORD (Palmer '78) were spectacular. Just opening and drawing lots of attention was SQUEEZE LOUISE (Nichols '88), a pretty ivory, taffy, blue melt.

Paying a most fitting tribute to our '88 convention chairman was a splendid clump of RON (Hamblen '81). One stalk had five branches and Ron Mullin was making sure it was seen by all.

The guest irises had encountered problems with mustard seed fungus and were not doing too well, but all the other irises were growing beautifully.

Cameras were clicking away and George Waters was having a field day. George was the last person to leave the garden, and I'm sure he returned to take more shots before leaving Oklahoma. I had received a new camera for Mother's Day and I learned to use it on showy clumps of MIDNIGHT HOUR (Schreiner '83), PINK TAFFETA (Rudolph '68), TEMPLE GOLD (Luihn '77) and Blythe's BEAU DON.

My only complaint was having to board the bus for our return to the hotel. One would think that after tramping through Iris gardens for three days we would have had enough, but this was a most delightful *FINALE*. Thanks Nancy.





The Ellis Garden

Agnes Waite (Massachusetts)

In a quiet country setting is the cozy home and gardens of the Ellis family. A warm, Oklahoma greeting was awaiting conventioners as they emerged from the buses on a beautiful sunny day. Three family members, including daughter Bonnie, were extending their hospitable welcome. It was a special pleasure to find Bonnie, the first runner-up for the Youth Award in 1983, still interested in irises and hybridizing. The gardens here were first started in 1976 and have been growing ever since as interest spread from mother to son and daughter. About two hundred guest irises were growing here and tended with special TLC. The rolling countryside and orchards added to the attractiveness of the rural setting. Here, one could easily relax from hectic city activities.

Just to the left of the driveway were found the first plantings of guest irises. YUKON FEVER, Schreiner's '86, a bright orange-yellow was radiant and the yellow, SUMMIT SOL, Jorgensen '82, was brilliant. A ruffled blue, BEAUTY IN MOTION, Danielson, '84 was just that as the breezes fluttered the petals. Not to be outdone by its bigger kin, the border-bearded, PEACH PETALS, Niswonger '87 was holding its own. The warm ivory standards and pinky falls were enhanced by big, bright red-orange beards. The miniature tall bearded class was represented by the rose-violet LIVELY ROSE by Fisher '86. Of course, CODICIL by Innerst '85, the medium blue with darker beard was

proving itself the beauty it always is. With light brown standards and pale orchid falls with a precise border of light brown, GINGER SWIRL, Schreiners '85, was a real knockout.

The orchard was the background for another planting of guest irises. Here DIETY, Byers '88, a ruffled, pale blue with bluer beards and horns was different and most attractive. WINDSONG WEST, Nichols '88, a tall blue blend was showing the charm that earned it much popularity at this convention. LATIN HIDEAWAY, Nichols '86, having buff-lavender standards and red falls would prove to be President's Cup winner that evening. It has lots of buds, two branches and a spur to assure one of a long period of bloom. A really nice cool white with lots of ruffles was MISS EUREKA, by Leda Christlieb. It was one not to be overlooked. TOMORROW'S CHILD, the 'down under' import, with the pink standards and violet-red falls showed its beauty but was blooming on short stalks.

It would have been nice to relax on the brick patio that looked over the home garden with its brick walk, but time was running short. The walk was edged with Standard Dwarf irises that, of course, had ceased to bloom but must have been a pleasure at bloom time. Nonetheless, a few tallers were blossoming and especially noted was a very neat plant of RAIN CRYSTAL, Blythe '82. It was white with a touch of orchid at the hafts. Niswonger's LILAC THRILL and Dunn's STYLELITE were both performing to attract attention of the viewer. At the end of the walk near the shed was a planting of PINK PARFAIT and BANJO MAN that brought my observations to an end as Bus Captains' whistles were blowing to board buses. It was not until later that I learned two mares had recently foaled and were in the barn. Yes, Leigh trains quarter horses. I am certain those foals would have attracted as much attention as the blooming irises. The visit was a delight and we appreciate all the time and efforts of the entire Ellis family.



Bonnie Ellis Hadaway, W. M. and Leigh Ellis.

The Merine Cole Garden

Dick Pettijohn (Nebraska)

As our bus arrived at the Cole garden, the weather was threatening. With luck I could rush through the garden, make my notes, and get to the refreshments before the rains came. But that was not to be the case. First, I had to pause and look at the airplanes. Seems as though most of the family flies and even a few friends park their planes here. But the garden was beckoning. No one will believe this, but the first iris I saw was Victoria Falls, standing straight and tall as becomes a Dykes Medal winner. And then the perennials started. I had been advised that if there weren't many irises in bloom there would still be a lot of other flowers to write about. You could hardly complain about the bloom in this iris garden, but you couldn't ignore the columbine and tulips completely. And then the rain started. Not really hard—just enough to make my notes run all over the pad. The rain didn't lessen my enjoyment of the garden—just my ability to report on the flowers accurately.

There was an old friend—THE BLUE BOY, a ruffled mid-blue self which is fragrant and, in some gardens, is said to rebloom. Then Bill Maryott's HOUDINI caught my eye. This is a ruffled velvety deep red-black and should be of interest to anyone who appreciates the darker shades in iris. Then a clump of baby blue-eyes made me wish for an iris just that shade of blue. Another Dykes medalist STEPPING OUT looked like it planned on retaining its place in the garden for many more years. Then Mary Dunn's MOMENTUM challenged for plicata primacy. This white ground plicata has ruffled standards stitched blue while the falls have a violet edge and haft. Then there were bachelor buttons—pink, blue and white, reminding me of the gardens of my childhood. Melba Hamblen's TOUCHE called across the path with its blue-pink standards and blue-violet falls and that tangerine beard. And just as in Melba's garden there were alliums and peonies blooming in the area. Then a clump of sweet rocket. I had never grown this, but I'll be giving it a try in the near future.

I finally made it to the guest bed area, and the first thing to catch my eye was Allan Ensminger's JAZZEBEL. This is a delightfully clean amoena/plicata with white standards and falls that have an inner border of bluebird blue and outer border of white. Nicely ruffled and branched. Allan's border bearded BATIK was not about to take a back seat. This variegated iris has a white ground striped with royal purple. Far and away my favorite among the variegated irises.

Three clumps of Siberians were waving in the slight breeze. Hollingworth's LADY VANESSA is wine red with the standards being a little lighter than the falls. Anna Mae Miller's SWIRLING LAVENDER is just that. And her 80-3-48 has pale lavender standards with darker falls which have light rims. These Siberians could wave in my garden anytime. Whether or not you are a great fan of space age irises, you would surely enjoy seeing Monte Byers' LURID and BLOWTORCH. LURID is a lightly ruffled white self with lurid red-orange



Merine Cole and garden visitors.

beards which produce long horns. BLOWTORCH has yellow standards, white falls with yellow edge and hafts, and an orange beard which goes absolutely mad with blue flounces and tatters. If you look at these long enough, you may just decide that space age irises aren't all that bad, at least those with SKY HOOKS in the pedigree.

The rain picked up along about here and my notes are next to illegible. But nevertheless, I've figured out that I like Vern Wood's EASTER SONG, a ruffled and lightly laced medium pink. Another pink you should enjoy is Glenn Corlew's VICTORIAN. This is on the orchid pink side and has a deeper orchid pink beard.

Barry Blyth's CHOCOLATE ROYALE was not doing as well in this garden as elsewhere on tour but still deserves mention for its chocolate brown and white combination. Branching is not much but chocoholics will forgive that slight drawback. COPPER LACE was doing well, and it was unfortunate that Leon Wolford wasn't on hand to see his heavily laced coppery orange introduction.

The Schreiners were well represented by GINGER SWIRL, with its copper-tan standards and pale lilac falls with tan band. This iris looks much better in person than in the catalog and yes, CHAMBER MUSIC is one of the parents of this ruffled beauty.

My favorite iris in this garden (and in all the convention gardens) was Margie Robinson's SLEIGHING SONG. This ruffled pale violet self with a soft yellow beard was a quiet delight. Good form and branching. This variety should be more widely grown.

The whistle has blown and I hardly have time for a cookie or two and a cup of coffee. But I'll remember this garden, not only for the excellently grown irises, but also for all those other plants which are going to provide color and pleasure for weeks to come. If you are looking for advice on what flowers you can interplant with your irises, Merine Cole may just be the person to ask.

Skrapka Garden

Betty Jamieson (Arkansas)

How observant were you? Did you see the snake in the gazebo?

The Skrapkas moved out of the city after 26 years in a house where they had a beautifully landscaped yard. Betty showed us an album of pictures of that yard. Five years ago, they decided to start another place with an eye to retirement.

Turning into the driveway, the first things to see are the rows of trees that the Skrapkas have planted on the left. The deciduous trees are Bradford ornamental pears and the little evergreens are the beginning of Christmas trees.

On the right, across the beautiful carpet of grass, is a triangle of plantings around ornamental peach trees. Among other plants are irises CORAL BLUSH, SUNDAY BRUNCH, and Henry Danielson's IMPERIAL PINK. Along the side of the house are clumps of EXTRA VAGANT, EASTER TOUCH, RON, LEMON PUNCH, and Black's NO STYLE.

Other beds around the house have plants other than irises, including pansies, violas, miniature snapdragons and portulaca. Especially notable is one large pine at the corner of the patio that A. J. brought from a worksite.

Betty brought to the patio some snapshots for us to see of her collections of dolls, photographed posing with various plants. She has used statues and figures very artistically along with blossoming plants. Suddenly, one would realize that there was a little creature of some sort peeping out between the leaves. I especially liked the dainty oriental girl in the triangle in the front yard and the two frogs in the back near the gazebo. And, did you see or hear the guineas out back?

In the back is Hager's MOON JOURNEY and one that really says "Come look at me!" Niswonger's SUN DAPPLED, a lovely cream and yellow iris. At the



Betty and A.J. Skrapka

very end of the row are two of Hollingworth's Siberians, INDY and Seedling #82H3A5. They were making a lovely show as was Ensminger's MARIA TORMENA, a plic with a surprising peachy beard.

The Skrapkas are not members of any iris society, but they were persuaded by Perry Parrish to open their lovely yard to us. It was really a treat. They certainly have that loving touch that makes flowers grow and thrive.

Oh, yes—the snake. Well, it wasn't alive, but was one Betty had put there to keep the birds away! She said it didn't work, but it makes an interesting conversation piece.



Marthella Shoemake greets guests.



COVER STORY

Pappan Garden

Lynda Miller (Indiana)

Nestled in the cool shade of oak trees lies the iris garden of Bill and Charline Pappan. Because of lack of time to cover such a large garden, I was unable to check out the private iris plantings which were enclosed in a privacy fence which was landscaped wonderfully with clematis, peonies, and other perennials. Nor could I explore the trails through the woods to various flower beds; instead my time was spent admiring the well grown guest irises in their raised beds.

Joe Ghio would have been pleased at the way many of his varieties performed; one was almost over performing. OCEAN PACIFIC '88, with its full blue-violet blossoms on great branched stalks made up for its short bud count by putting up numerous bloom stalks. DESIGNER GOWN '85 was showing off its large pink flowers, while MALAGUENA '85 carried its creamy orange flowers with tangerine beards on tall show stalks. SUCCESS STORY '87 stood out with its perky color combo of light blue standards and plum falls.

Nancy Bartlett's FIRST COMMUNION '85 was showing off its pure white ruffled blossoms on great branched stalks. Another outstanding white was Franklin Carr's SNOW SWAN. It has thick substance and heavily ruffled white blossoms with the white beards changing to yellow in the throat. Going more to the blue white side is Henry Rowlan's SPACE WALK '86, with clear clean tailored flowers.

Since pink tones always catch my eye, not to be missed was Dave Niswonger's CORAL CHALICE '83, cream with peach hafts sliding down the falls and his PEPPERMINT CRUSH '82, sparkling pink standards atop falls of cream with a pencil edge of pink. The strangest pink tone in the garden was Allan Ensminger's MARIA TORMENA '87, greyed pink orchid with deeper streaks of unusual color markings. I liked it. Evelyn Kegerise's seedling 81-270-C was a large flowered sparkling pink with good branching.

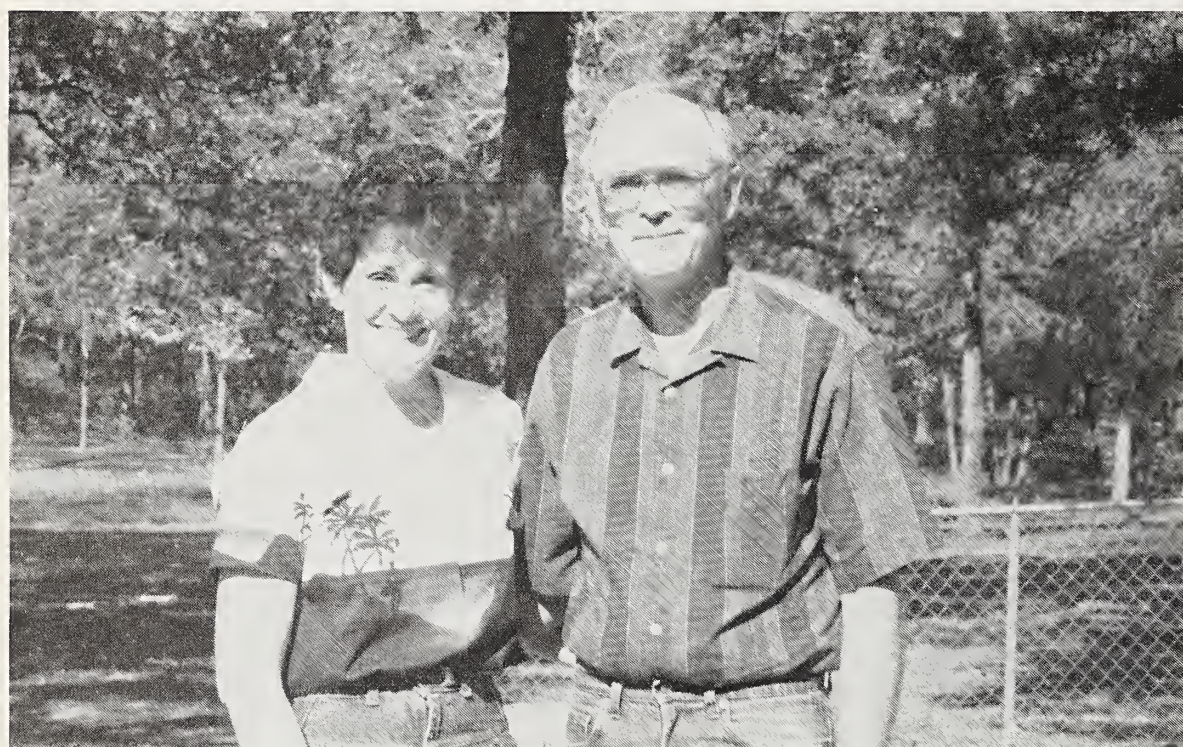
If you are looking for the color of the old variety Allegiance, it can be found in Paul Black's NAVY WAVES '84, navy blue waving and ruffles. The heavy lace on the orange flower MAKES Ben Hager's CINDERELLA'S COACH '86. It also has wide branching which hybridizers are always looking for. And, a different rose-red with gold beards was James Mahoney's SANGRE DE CRISTO. Its hafts may be too busy for some of you.

Trying to hold on to one last lemon yellow blossom was Bee Warburton's IB SUNNY FAVOR '84, but her seedling B 50 UN (another IB) was grabbing the attention with its petite flaring blossoms of white with clean blue plicata markings. Steve Stevens' QUEEN VASHTI '84 showed light lacing on the orchid blossoms. But what was really stealing the show in this garden was Schreiners' ALTRUIST '87, large ruffled clear sky blue with dazzling white beards. A couple of seedlings also worth noting were Sterling Innerst's 1844-7, a crystal blue and Hooker Nichols' 8217Q, a large orchid with a pink cast.

As the bus captain was blowing his whistle to gather us back to the buses, I couldn't resist looking at a few stunning older arils. Two catching my eye were Jolan Effendi, gold and red-brown with the standards having the reverse color markings of the falls, and SPECKLED BIRD which was speckled rose-violet (well named).



Charline and Bill Pappan



Marjorie and Chuck Deaton

Clark-Nichols Garden

Connie Hall (Massachusetts)

When I go to each garden at a convention, I am aware of the work that has gone into making the garden successful, because my garden was on tour in 1983 at the Boston convention. However, the work I did seems insignificant compared to the effort and time that Hooker Nichols put into the Clark-Nichols garden at the Oklahoma City convention.

Hooker lives in Woodward, Oklahoma, which is 140 miles north of Oklahoma City, too far away for a convention garden. Hooker, instead, planted a garden at his uncle's home in the suburbs of Oklahoma City. Hooker learned to walk "by pulling himself up on an iris." Bill Clark is the area manager of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and he made all the iris labels in his garden from scrap metal and telephone wire.

When we arrived at the Clark's large ranch house, we found the convention iris beds around the perimeter of the back yard. First to be observed was Roger and Lynda Miller's KEKIONGA '87, a large, lightly ruffled dark violet iris. Hager's FANFARON '87 can be called a finished DAZZLING GOLD, while his GOOD SHOW '88, a brilliant and large orange flower, was just yummy. PINK BUBBLES (Hager '80), a ruffled pink BB, put on a good show. SWING KING (Magee '86) has yellow standards and white falls with a yellow rim which is flaring and ruffled. FLUENT (Innerst '87), a lavender flower with a copper band on the falls and a bright yellow beard, was striking and different.

Also putting on a good show was a BB, BOY O BOY (Ghio '86), a white iris with a striking yellow band and bright orange beards. CLOUDLESS SUNRISE (Niswonger '84) was nice as was his CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE, an '87 introduction which has white standards and champagne colored falls. The yellow beards set this iris off nicely. MY KATIE (Nearpass '87) has flesh



Bill Clark and Hooker Nichols



Clark Garden



Karen Hirsch at Clark's.

standards, light violet falls and an orange beard. SWEET ANITA, another Nearpass '87, was a very lovely TB with light orchid standards, white falls pencilled rose, and a deeper rose pencilling at the hafts. A Fisher seedling, 85-5, was an eye-catching MTB with snow white standards and dark violet falls with a narrow white band. 8684C was a different and interesting seedling of Hooker Nichols. It was chocolate with a bright orange beard and yellow near the beard and haft markings. AEGEAN WALTZ (Nichols '87) was an impressive violet iris with a white spot that continued as a line down the falls. BILLIE YVONNE (Nichols '88) caught my attention with its lovely lemon fragrance, and MEXICAN BEAUTY, another of Nichols' newest introductions, was a honey bronze blend with a warm golden beard. THAT SCENTSATION (Weiler '85), a smooth medium blue with yellow beards, has a pronounced very sweet fragrance. ELIZABETH MARRISON (Nichols '87) was a light reversed pink bi-tone.

Leaving the convention garden through an opening in the fence, I came upon the area where Hooker had planted his own irises. Hooker and Bill dredged a portion of the pond behind the house to provide top soil and room for the irises. Lined out in this garden was an impressive fifteen-foot row of LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols '86), the President's Cup winner at the 1988 convention. This cup winner has grayed-lavender standards and garnet red falls. Many new irises were noticed in this garden. Gatty's '87 introductions are aptly named BOLD GOLD and JUNNY AND WARM, two striking yellow irises. CHURCHILL DOWNS (Mohr '88) is a heavily ruffled yellow with a white spot on the falls. Nice blues to be seen were SULTRY MISS (E. Kegerise '86), TOUCH OF BRONZE (Blyth '83), SKY BLAZE (Keppel '87), and BLUES ON PARADE (McWhirter '87). ROMANTICIST (Keppel '88) has rose standards and tan falls with a rose band. Other Keppel irises were JITTERBUG, a yellow with falls speckled red, and POLAR SEAS, a light violet with a darker band on the falls and a white spot at the beard. A nice introduction with faint yellow standards,

light lavender falls and a yellow beard tipped white was LULLABY OF SPRING (Schreiners '87). Among the other irises I enjoyed were MOMENTUM and FANCY FACE (M. Dunn '87), ORBITER and SEA WOLF (Aitken '85), ELLAMAE FEHRER (Corlew '86), DANCE MUSIC (Mohr '88), and BUTTER CRISP (Aitken '86).

As I left the Clark-Nichols Garden, it was evident that the hard work and many miles of back-and-forth driving paid off. Thank you, Hooker and Bill, for sharing your time and garden with me. The 1988 Oklahoma City convention will be a lasting memory for me for many years to come.



Genevieve Followwill



Garden sign at Will Rogers.

Will Rogers Park

Larry Harder (Nebraska)

Mrs. Genevieve Followwill and her fellow members of the Oklahoma Iris Society have put together, with the staff of the Will Rogers Park, a beautiful display showcase for irises. The many types of shrubs and clipped hedges as backgrounds helped the irises to hold forth in all of their glory. Genevieve was at hand by the entrance to the iris garden to welcome the AIS members as they entered the display. If one looked up he was sure to notice the huge painted display sign with the iris logo.

One knows that the iris members attention immediately turned to the flowers that were on display. Paths led from one area of the garden to another, and around every bend was another iris or two that beckoned for closer scrutiny. In the guest plantings were a number of the newest irises from Melrose Garden. Here we saw a beautiful clump of Ben Hager's VERISMO, a rich mahogany brown red, that brings a new color to that elusive color of deep toned browns. I have much admired this variety for a number of years and was happy to see that the colors were still as rich and bright in Oklahoma as they were in California. In the same area of the garden were several others of Hager's new ones, MOON'S DELIGHT, a very good yellow, and his FOOLISH

FANCY, a rose pink plicata. A huge clump of WHITE REPRISE coming from Walter Moores added a light tone to this color palate. I loved the lacy edge on this good white iris. Then, let us add BLACK FLAG by Hal Stahly for the very dark tone of color, and we will have in our iris garden another tone of color in all of the varieties. Black Flag is very somber in its coloration making it a very deeply saturated black with violet cast.

In another bed I noticed the border bearded that Elvan Roderick has given us. His MUSIC BOX DANCER is a delightful rich blue that has a flare to it that gives one the impression of why it was named thusly. The blue iris sports a brilliant dark red beard. It looked quite in proportion here in this planting. In soft lavender with a soft red beard was the very beautiful LILAC GLITTERS from Leonard Michel. This is one that I know that I want to enjoy for a long while in the garden. And one should add SUN BLOSSOM from Eleanor Kegerise so that we can continue to enjoy this bright spot of yellow in our gardens. Loved how it was so well branched too.

One of the delightful aspects of the iris plantings in this garden was the pictures that one could create with the varieties that were in bloom at the time we were there. So many of our favorite irises were in bloom and that is the object to any public display garden—Show off the really good irises such as FRESNO CALYPSO (Weiler) in its brilliant orange colors, SNOW MOUND (Schreiners) in its white standards, dark purple falls; BEVERLY SILLS (Hager) that brilliant ruffled pink; and RISING MOON (Schreiners) in a soft glowing yellow; ROYAL EGYPTIAN (Hinkle) a tan with texture veining; FULL TIDE (O. Brown) in a rich blue; CAMELOT ROSE (Tompkins) in silvery standards, rose falls edged with silver; and the plicata GOING MY WAY (Gibson) in its brilliant violet on white.

More of the newer irises that we must add to our gardens included PLANNED TREASURE (Burger) with its pink and blue combination with a pale tangerine beard; GLORY DAYS (Nichols) with its heavy substance with pale white orchid standards, white falls edged with chartreuse and a hint of lavender throughout; SOONER SERANADE (Shaver) with its startling two tones of reddish black; the delightful border bearded variety SOFT SPOKEN (Dyer) in the softest of lavenders; and ORIENTAL IMAGERY (Black) in an unusual very fancy pattern of rose pink on white.

To round out our picture of color, here is a list of varieties that would bloom together and would make a very fine landscape picture. I'm going to try to put GALA MADRID, FULL TIDE, GAY PARASOL, PINK FRINGE, NEW MOON, SUN FIRE, KIMBERLINA, MYSTIC EYE, SON OF STAR, MOUNTAIN DEW, NAVAJO BLANKET, BEVERLY SILLS, LEDA'S LOVER, PORTRAIT OF LARRIE and PERSIAN BERRY together. The garden will glow with the color combination.

The iris that I enjoyed the most in this garden was the beautiful one created by Tell Muhlestein. Many have attempted but none have surpassed the beauty of JOYCE TERRY. This brilliant yellow and white iris is one that you can

have in your garden and even though it is now considered to be very old it is still as beautiful today as any of the modern irises.

Few of the AIS members probably visited the entrance to the Garden Center as the iris garden is located in back of it behind the greenhouse. We had entered the garden from the lower parking. But I took the time to see what the general public saw and found that several of the Dykes Medal winning irises were planted in the perennial border that is used at the entrance. Some that I could identify were NEW MOON in huge clumps set off with the beauty of PINK TAFFETA and MARY FRANCES. And if one would have taken the time, he could have visited the peony planting which was in bloom, looked over the rose garden, stopped to watch the ducks on the small lake, or toured the greenhouses with their plant collections. The garden center is a well used display area for many plant societies, and I've been here many times for the annual Symposiums, regional meetings, and others and the members of both the Oklahoma Iris Society and the Sooner State Iris Society are certainly hospitable. They always have a good welcome for you. So do come back to see this very beautiful garden whenever you have the opportunity. I know that I will.



Scenes from the Perry
Parrish garden.

Parrish Garden

Don Delmez (Missouri)

It was an extremely cool morning when we left to visit the Parrish garden. The sun was shining brightly when we pulled up to the house. Our first sight was a lovely flower bed in the front of a large brick home with pansies and begonias. The tulips were just out of bloom. As we walked up the driveway, Perry greeted us. We entered a large gate at the side of his home which opened to a large back yard framed by a tall privacy fence. The pie shaped lot expanded to 150 feet across the back. A beautiful setting of flower beds completely surrounded the yard. Brick borders of a raised bed surrounding the entire back yard were dotted with pinks and sweet williams in front of the irises.

Irises that we particularly liked were Keppel's SORCERESS, Corlew's VICTORIAN, a lovely pale pink, Bob Dunn's ALL STAR, a large deep purple and MOMENTUM (Mary Dunn) which was extra nice. Ghio's CAFE SOCIETY, DESIGNER GOWN, and PEARLS OF WISDOM were all doing quite well in Oklahoma. SEA WOLF, a deep purple by Terry Aitken was outstanding and RADIANT ENERGY (Maryott) was a show stopper. LATIN HIDEAWAY was a winner by Hooker Nichols.

Guest irises that grew well in this garden were FROSTY FRILLY, a nice white by Lynn Bausch, Roderick's MUSIC BOX DANCER, which was showing off, Francis Rogers' F211-B, an unusual dark bug color, and Sterling Innerst's 1844-7, a large light lavender which was exceptionally nice. These are just a few of the outstanding guest irises we enjoyed in the Parrish's garden.

This was such a pleasant garden to visit with plenty of nice shade trees and a mocking bird to serenade us during the entire visit. We would like to thank the Parrishes for all their hard work. It was a joy to see so many beautifully grown clumps of irises in peak bloom.

Ellen Rockwell
shows her
pleasure with
Distinguished
Service Medal





BANQUET SCENES

President Rasmussen presents awards to Harley Briscoe, left; Mary Dunn, below left; and Walt Luihn, below right.



Former president Hal Stahly receives award from current president, Jim Rasmussen.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

At right, President Rasmussen presents Membership Contest award to Bill Vines.

Below, left, Joe Mertzweiller receives AM certificate. Below right, Floyd Wickenkamp receives an AM.



Hooker Nichols accepts the President's Cup for Latin Hideaway.



MORE AWARD WINNERS

Ar left, David Schreiner with AM for Tide's In. Center left, Calvin Helsley with AM for Starlight Waltz. Right, Tony and Dorothy Willott with an AM.



Jack and Glenda Norrick receive the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup for Bumblebee Deelite, an MTB.

Dr. John Weiler receives an AM certificate.

Center: Mr. and Mrs. Walt Luihn discuss irises with David Schreiner.

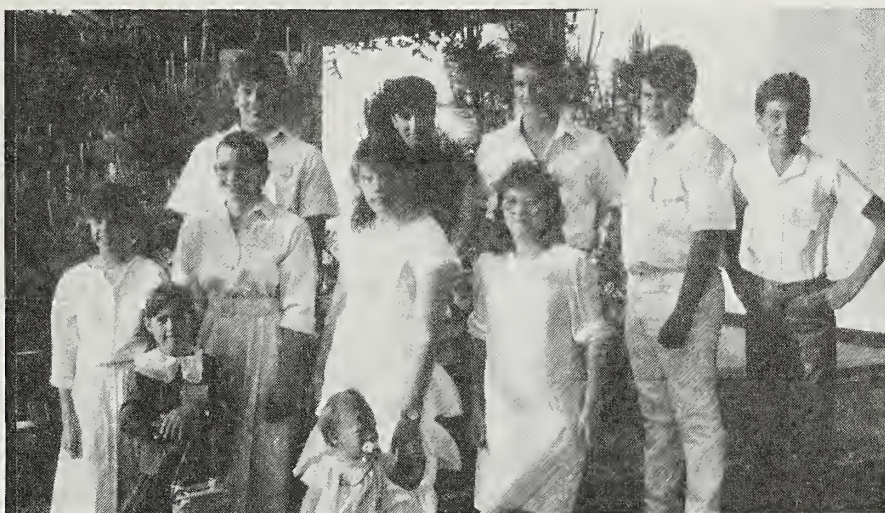


Mr. and Mrs. Dave Niswonger and Ray Schreiner.



Beth Bowman of Edmond, Oklahoma, is presented the Clarke Cosgrove Trophy for winning the Youth Achievement Award for the year. Youth Chairperson Catherine Long Gates made the presentation.

Photo below shows the youth members at the Oklahoma City convention.



FROM THE EDITOR

Preparing the Bulletin is a learning process. It seems that everything is going well, then suddenly, all types of problems arise. Such was the case with the July issue. In an attempt to save time, we skipped one of the steps in the normal production process. When we did that, I omitted the fact that the articles from Adele Lawyer were reprinted from other sources. The articles were reprinted from the Region 14 Newsletter and from the Pacific Coast Almanac. Apologies to those editors and to Adele. Another error was the credit of the cover photo to George Waters when it was actually made by Currier McEwen. My advice to others is: Never chair a convention, finish a school year, and edit a Bulletin at the same time.

Securing sufficient material for each issue of the Bulletin is quite a chore. Articles are appreciated, and even though they may not appear when you expect them, they may appear in a future issue. Matching material and available space is almost as difficult as securing the articles in the first place.

If your copy of the Bulletin does not arrive, please contact the AIS Secretary, Jeane Stayer. The editor does not have copies to mail and you delay the arrival of your Bulletin by contacting that office.

Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

YOUTH CONTEST RULES

If you know an AIS youth member who is active in any of the following areas please nominate that youth!

She/He grows a very fine garden of her/his own.

She/He is an active hybridizer.

She/He has contributed to an iris publication.

She/He has helped an iris organization through a committee or activity.

She/He visits local gardens.

She/He has attended regional/national conventions.

She/He is studying to become or is already an AIS judge.

She/He has promoted iris and/or AIS to others.

She/He has found new AIS members.

She/He competes enthusiastically in shows.

She/He is involved in scientific experiments with irises.

She/He is interested in irises other than TBs.

She/He shows leadership.

Rules are simple. Any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member. Entries must be in writing, including the name and age of the youth member, and mailed to Catherine Gates by January 31, 1989. The youth committee will code the entries to conceal identities and send them to a carefully selected panel of judges. Awards will be presented at the National Convention in Memphis.

Tips to Nominators: Please use the activity list above as an outline for your nomination, elaborating on each area that applies to your nominee. Try to limit your nomination to a maximum of two pages. Feel free to add anything not covered in the list, especially those qualities that make your nominee special. Take as much care and consideration as possible in preparing your nomination. How well you present your nominee to the judges can influence the outcome.

ADVERTISERS THIS ISSUE

Iris Society of Louisiana	4
Pollen Dauber's Seminar	4
Evergreen Labels	25
Schultz	25

FLIGHTLINES

Genetics

Ruth Schulz, Meriden, CT: My original idea in hybridizing was to get a *green iris*.

The only clue I had to go on was, the color *green* was on the iris color chart. And LADY MOHR had chartreuse falls. (She doesn't throw seed, our first uppance.) The finale of this comedy was the famous DOUBLE CROSS. This is still out there and is an off-white median.

The exciting part was where I crossed GREEN SPOT into SNOWY FLURRY and BLUE DENIM into a large yellow using dried pollen. This technique is so simple: put several anthers in a pill bottle, leave it open 24 hours, then close it tight. Pollen can be used even a year later. From median to tall season is only a few weeks to wait; takes are so good. I would recommend it for those difficult crosses. Dried pollen is fluffy and easy to spread.

When Percy Brown used to bring his fall-bloomers to Region One meetings in October, we *knew* it was genetic, because the fall-bloomers are so very ugly. *Were*, I mean. Getting pretty things to reboom is (after 20 years or so) quite the thing. If only SUMMER SUNSHINE would rebloom for me! We get only CORN HARVEST (in bud now, and we have had one mild frost). RAVENWOOD another disappointment, as it is New England-bred, but never reblooms here—but we saw buds on it in a garden in Maine last fall! Rebloomers in New England are suicidal; it is almost impossible to save them from frost.

James L. Ennenga, Omaha, NE: The markings on STARLIT BLUE are very interesting to me. John Weiler is also working on the luminata pattern, and he does not consider it a luminata but just a "fancy" plicata. I got it from him this year, and he told me that he used it in a cross with, as I remember, another plicata. He got a low percentage of plicatas, no luminatas, and very poor form on all of the flowers. He was disappointed, to say the least. I don't believe he made any F² crosses, although he may do so next year.

My most exciting "take" this year was PANDORA'S PURPLE pollen on a Warburton seedling (VR-2, I think). When I got back from the convention, I found that the tip of the pod was rotting and that a lower branch was rotting and had rotted into the stem. I used Robbie Browne's tetracycline and glycerine mixture and daubed it on the soft, mushy pod and stem with my fingers. Both pod and stem calloused over and I saved the pod. It is a little short because of the original rot, but it is my best luminata cross of the season.

I haven't had quite as good an experience with seeds of versicolor and shrevei. I have been unable to determine a definite color variation, and I

cannot distinguish between the “shiny” or “corky” pericarps. When I told Jean Witt about my problem, she suggested another method of determining the species from the seeds. *I. versicolor* is supposed to be a natural hybrid from a cross of *I. setosa* and *I. virginica*, with a standard length intermediate between them. Thus far everything is logical. She told me that the seeds of *I. setosa* show a definite raphe, and those of *I. versicolor* show a smaller raphe, while those of *I. virginica* have no raphe.

Eric Tankesley-Clarke, California, MO: My hybridizing efforts were strictly of the “daubing” type until just a few years ago. I don’t have a lot to show for it yet, at least, nothing I intend to let off the property. I have a number of goals, many of them very long term, since I want to work various species characteristics into the tall bearded, medians, and arilbreds. I won’t restrict myself to just aphylla, but I have decided to work with it first because of several characters: its tetraploidy, hardiness, high bud count (on some clones), self-cleaning (the blooms dry up and fall off nicely), ability to intensify colors, apparent resistance to leaf spot, and according to Charlies, possibly borers. At the Pollen Daubers’ seminar in Oklahoma, Bob Schreiner talked a good bit about their use of aphylla, and suggested other species might be worth a try. For instance, he had suggested that *reichenbachii* was leaf spot resistant. We had an epidemic of leaf spot during the warm, humid spring. Most tall in one part of the garden got a good case of it in just a few days, but nearly all the species growing in the next few rows showed none. This included *reichenbachii*, *varbossiana*, aphylla, most of the pallidas, most of the lutescens, and a few others. One of the least resistant appeared to be *pumila*. This is only one year’s observations, so I can’t say I’ve proven anything, but it’s something to watch for during the next few seasons.

As for the *versicolor-virginica* problem, I can only speak from the experience of watching two clumps here last year. Not only did our *virginica* var. *shrevei* have the larger standards expected, but the seeds were distinctly darker brown, and coarser looking in texture; the *versicolor* seeds were redder brown and had nearly shiny pericarps. This is just the result that Davidson predicts in *The World of Irises*.

I wonder if bud count can be predicted. In the Missouri Botanical Garden library, I found Ben Arthur Davis’ book on daylilies. What made this particular copy interesting was that it had been donated by an avid notetaker - and note-gluer! She had glued in a page from the garden’s Bulletin from November, 1958. This article spoke of *Cattleya* orchids and breeding for bud count. The gist was that the expected bud count of the progeny was not the arithmetic mean of the parents, but rather the geometric mean. Their example used varieties having 3 and 22 buds, respectively. Rather than expecting 12-13 buds ($3 + 22 \div 2$), it claimed to expect $(3 \times 22) =$ buds. They claimed that several plants of just such a cross were, in fact exhibiting 7-8 buds. Perhaps it’s quite a leap to iris, but it might put things in perspective.

Allen C. Gathman, Tucson, AZ: Here in Tucson I grow my irises on ridges in a sunken bed. The ridges keep the water from pooling on them, but I find it necessary to use a sunken bed so I can flood irrigate them. Summer tem-

peratures of 100 to 110 degrees make for heavy water use. Right now, they are doing a lot of vegetative growing, as the first frost probably won't come until late in November. My main interest in iris breeding right now is in producing new TB cultivars which do well here, with drought and heat tolerance.

VICTORIA FALLS' Dykes Medal seems richly deserved. One of my neighbors has a clump on the south side of her house in intense reflect and direct sun. It bloomed profusely in its first spring, bloomed again in midsummer, and has multiplied freely as well. I certainly will be trying it as a parent this spring.

D. C. Nearpass, College Park, MD: In driving through the countryside I was impressed with the beautiful showing that some of the old Siberian irises and some of the old bearded varieties were doing. For the past few years I've been thinking that for *garden irises*, those that would fit into Eastern gardens, a borer resistant set of cultivars, modest in size and height, and somewhat more showy than the old ones, especially close up, would be highly desirable. Some people with whom I talked believed that the Siberians showed more promise for the East than the present day TB's.

At Schreiners' and Cooleys' I was surprised to find, even in their display gardens very few *established* clumps. At Schreiners' there was one modest sized section with 2 or 3 year clumps. All the rest of the display garden was of 1 year plants. At Cooleys' what, at first approach, appeared to be established clumps were actually groups of one-year plants. Even in a sheltered location, many stalks were being staked. Much rain during the past few days probably contributed to the poor support that the soil was providing the plants. So it would appear that the big western growers have been selecting for plants that fit into their scheme of growing and dividing yearly. For a home garden a more desirable plant would be one that could be planted and would bloom year after year without having to be dug, divided, thinned out and replanted.

Some time ago I noted that my first-generation aphylla hybrids seemed to be little troubled by borers. However, plants that are $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ aphylla seemed to be attacked quite a bit. Plant breeding may be one answer, but now another approach will be tried toward borer control. Some USDA researchers are trying to isolate the pheromone that the female moth emits that attracts the male. I was able to provide all the borers wanted for this year for the researchers.

Most of the MTB's have old-fashioned tailored form, scratchy hafts and are miles away from being miniature versions of modern tall bearded irises. The potential for developing beautifully rounded, ruffled iris flowers of 3" dimension on well-branched knee-high stalks; with 2, 3, or 4 buds per socket; and with all the glorious colors and color patterns of modern TB irises is there—but probably far in the future.

Barbara McWhirter, Cheshire, CT: Standard dwarf beardeds do exceedingly well for us, so they grow in abundance amid our tall beardeds, along with a few intermediates. Regardless of the genetics paths our hybridizing takes us over the years to come, Alan and I are constantly aware of which irises perform well in New England, and, we'll be selecting for this characteristic along with the others. Almost every Schreiners and Cooleys-ordered

rhizome has survived in our garden, where we have our share of borers, soft rot, leaf spot, frost heave damage and inclement New England weather. It seems to be little more than luck when an introduction that must have been smashing in its breeder's California seedling bed decides to settle down and do well for us. At the same time, I'm sure a few of our future hopefuls will find something disagreeable about California. We are curious to know how much recognition and discussion of "regional" varieties is going on. (Ben Hager's Siberians seem to be thriving in our front yard so far. Now, whether he would recognize them as his is another story.)

Alan McWhirter, Cheshire, CT: For the most part, dwarfs and intermediate bearded irises perform better in New England than most of their tall bearded counterparts, so I'm devoting some effort to exploration of the smaller iris.

Another long-range project, begun a year ago, involves the development of new yellow-ground plicatas from different ancestry than that of the yellow plics available today. Step one in the lengthy process involves crosses between selected white-ground plicatas and red or brown irises having no known plicata background. Hopefully this first series of crosses will yield a few decent red or brown selfs for use in the next stage of the process.

Barbara Benson, Lubbock, TX: Some seedlings have been fair, some interesting, some awful. My aim has been for the plicata-luminata-Celestar recessive "blanks." They are now more than passable, in fact quite good in white, pink, orange, and yellow.

The luminatas are in brown on yellow, red on yellow, blue on white, purple on white, blue-violet on yellow and red-purple on yellow. Form all of these is bad to fair. The form, substance and branching on some of the "blanks" is quite good, so the well-patterned but otherwise "yukky" luminates are back-crossed on better-developed blanks for upgrading. The upgraded lumi X blank crosses will then be crossed with each other to see if somewhere along the line a presentable luminata will result.

CLEAR LIGHTS, the most recently introduced luminata, is difficult to work with. It will *not* set seed for me and makes little pollen. Sometimes you need to split the anther and release a little pollen, but mostly it just isn't there. Each year I get one or two pods to set by it, but not many.

Weiler's STARLIT BLUE bloomed this spring, an obvious lumi-plicata (or fancy). *Both* the plicata and luminata markings are clear. It had no pollen, but I tried crossing it by a blue-on-white luminata seedling. The form on STARLIT BLUE was extremely ruffled and the flowers huge on a short stem. However, it was a first year plant, so I'll expect taller stems next year.

I have a beautiful white "blank" dubbed WAXWORKS that is very fertile. It withstood winds to 70 mph with no tearing, burning nor any problems except filling full of dirt. It had a tiny bit of peach in the center of the flower and a white beard, peach in the center.

Also, I have used some arilbred pollen on some of the "blanks." An old 1951 article in the Aril Society International Newsletter reports early use by C. G. White of plicata-recessive whites and lemon-ices in crossing with arils to

bring out recessive colors and markings. Now that these recessives are reaching good form, substance and branching, it should be fun.

Alan McMurtrie, Willowdale, Ontario: It's interesting to look at the TBs of 20-30 years ago and see the improvements that have been made. But it's interesting to note that while some characteristics can be easily changed, others can't, e.g. individual flower bloom duration. That seems unchanging.

Have you noticed how modern TBs have a large distance between their stigmatic lips and the surface of the fall? I've seen big bumble bees go into irises and not pollinate them because the distance was so large the bee couldn't brush the stigmatic lip. I doubt our modern TBs could survive very long if man were to vanish from the earth.

It's interesting to note that with a lot of hybridizers only using seedlings from first-year germination (They get rid of others because they can't be bothered to wait for them to germinate; they have the next generation of seeds to plant), that, at least for me, we get only approximately 60% first-year germination. I'm surprised that it isn't up to 90% by now with that type of breeding being done.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual	\$ 9.50	Sustaining	\$20.00
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Youth Members, with no others of family as members			3.25

SECTION MEMBERSHIP RATES	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Irises	2.50	6.50	3.00	7.50
Spuria Iris Society	3.00	7.00	3.50	8.00
Society for Japanese Irises	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00
Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group of North America	3.50	9.00	4.50	10.50
Louisiana Iris Society of America	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00

Membership in AIS sections is open to all AIS members. Payment may be made directly to the Section, or may be made payable to the American Iris Society and sent to AIS Membership Secretary, Carol Ramsey, 6518 Beachy Ave., Wichita, KS 67206

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Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

The Holiday Inn, Airport West
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 3 & 4, 1988

The regular spring meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society was called to order at 2 p.m. May 3, 1988 by President Rasmussen. Present at the various sessions were President Rasmussen; Immediate Past President and Editor Mullin; Past President Stahly; Vice President K. Waite; Secretary J. Stayer; Treasurer Corlew; Registrar Nelson; Recording Secretary C. Barr; Publication Sales Director Lack; Directors Copeland, Crick, Gates, Gristwood, Hobbs, Lineberger, W. Machulak and Waters; Committee Chairmen Harder, Keppel, and McEwen; Foundation Liaison Pettijohn; RVPs A. Waite (1), Burke (2), Maltman (3), Zurbrigg (4), Gaines (5), Christopher (7) A. Machulak (8), R. Ostheimer (10), Dunn (11), Ames (12), Erickson (14), Strane (15), Noe (19), Claussen (21), and L. Stayer (22); Acting RVP Clough (9), Asst. RVP Christlieb (18), RVP representatives Wiekhorst (20) and Gilliam (24); Section representatives A. Lowe (4), A. Cronin and L. Cronin (6), Vogt (7), Koza (8), Stout (9), E. Ostheimer (10), Silverberg (13), Dean and Holloway (14), W. Barr (15), F. Boyd, H. Boyd, P. Dierkes, R. Dierkes and Fillmore (18), and Leach (22).

President Rasmussen welcomed all those present and in his opening remarks stated that the spring Board meetings are primarily for reports, while most business is transacted at fall meetings, and that while only Board members may vote, comments or questions are welcomed from everyone.

The minutes of the fall Board meeting in Memphis, TN, were approved as published in BULLETIN No. 268.

President Rasmussen stated that at the fall meeting the Board voted to use Curley Printing Co. of Nashville, TN, for the printing of the July, 1988, issue of the BULLETIN. Rasmussen explained that the decision had been made to delay using the Curley Co. until the following issue. There were several reasons, among them that the Curley Co. had been sold at the beginning of the year and is under new management, and also that neither the new editor nor the advertising editor of the BULLETIN was able to make a recommendation at the meeting. There will be more discussion later after the editor's report.

Rasmussen reported further that he had received word of the death of Homer Metcalf. Dr. Metcalf had been the recipient of a grant from the AIS for his project for the compilation of all published chromosome counts for iris species. Rasmussen has received several boxes of Dr. Metcalf's files, and he will need to find someone who can go through the material and report the findings to the Board.

Jim Wilson, host of a TV show, "Victory Garden South," has written requesting the names of some irisarians whom he might contact for his research on a book he is writing on hobby gardeners. Three names have been sent to him.

There has been no interim action by the Board or by the Executive Committee.

Secretary Stayer reported that there had been a request from Iowa State University for time at the convention to present a program on scorch research. This presentation will take place on Friday at 7 p.m.

Stayer reported on the status of the AIS contract with American Airlines which allows a discount to AIS members traveling to and from spring or fall AIS meetings. Corlew moved, Waite seconded, that the contract be renewed for another five years. The motion passed. There was discussion about similar conflicting contracts negotiated by convention committees for their own particular conventions and about the hope that further duplication of contracts might be avoided.

The report of Membership Secretary Ramsey was read by Stayer. The total membership, as of April 1, 1988, was 7921, an increase in one year of 410 members or 5.5%. Region 14 was in first place, Region 7 was second, Region 4 was third, and Region 18 was in fourth place. Ramsey had prepared, along with the usual statistics, a four-year membership study which showed a steady increase in total membership for that period.

Treasurer Corlew spoke with high praise of the treasurer's records turned over to him by former treasurer Francesca Thoolen and thanked her for all her help during the transition. Corlew distributed copies of the annual review report prepared by new CPA, James P. Boodell, of Walnut Creek, CA, along with corrected copies of the 1987-88 budget which was approved at the fall meeting. Lineberger moved, Stayer seconded, that the interim report just distributed be accepted as information. The motion passed.

Registrar Nelson stated that the IRIS CHECKLIST OF REGISTERED CULTIVAR NAMES 1970-1979 has sold out. Corlew moved, Copeland seconded, that a reprint of 1000 copies of this book be authorized. The motion passed. Nelson will get an estimate of the cost of the reprinting.

There was discussion about setting the price of the new membership booklet, which will be offered for sale at this convention. Rice-Waters moved, Crick seconded, that the price be \$6 for booklets sold at this convention, and that the booklet be advertised in the July issue of the BULLETIN at \$6.50. The motion passed.

Publication Sales Director Lack reported on current inventory. All copies of IRISES FOR EVERY-ONE have been sold. There was discussion, but no decision, about a new booklet to replace this one. There are 41 copies of the RHS COLOUR CHART left in inventory.

Following a ten-minute break, Affiliates Chairman Copeland reported that there are 133 affiliates this year, one more than last year. A complete written report will be given at the fall meeting. To a question from the floor concerning information about new affiliates, Copeland replied that RVPs are the key as liaison; the Affiliates Chairman always works through the RVP.

Awards Chairman Waite distributed written reports. Official ballots have been mailed to 946 judges, of which 926 were in the United States and Canada and 20 overseas. One hundred twenty ballots were sent to Judges Training Chairman Crick for distribution to apprentices. There were 2224 varieties listed on the official ballot. The 1989 symposium ballot has been prepared, with 421 varieties listed. Within the next year a new supply of Honorable Mention and Special Awards Certificates will be needed.

To a question from President Delmez of the Society for Japanese Irises concerning a possible change of date for the special ballot for Japanese irises, Waite replied that at this time no change can be made. In discussion it was recommended to Delmez that this matter be brought to the attention of the Board at the fall meeting. Also discussed was the regulation which prohibits the giving of AIS Awards to irises not registered first in the United States. Barr moved, Lineberger seconded, that President Rasmussen appoint a committee to study this question. The motion passed.

Exhibitions Chairman Hobbs stated that 162 schedules have been processed. This is an increase over last year. Show reports are now coming in. As it takes quite some time to fill orders for certificates and medals, members are asked not to write to Hobbs asking where these items are. In answer to a question of why show supplies cannot be ordered ahead, Hobbs replied that supplies for a show cannot be ordered until the schedule for that show has been approved.

Historical Committee Chairman Harder reported that a large collection of commercial catalogs from the 1920s had been donated. He is now using a new numbering system for items as they are acquired. Committee chairmen are asked to send information to Harder about current procedures so that information such as dates of new iris clubs is included in regional newsletters. Current information becomes history. Harder said also that he has had requests for a set of slides of all Dykes Medal winners. Lineberger moved that the society compile a set of slides of Dykes Medal winners, working through Slides Chairman Shockey. Copeland seconded. The motion passed.

Harder stated also that in collecting catalogs from establishments having general listings of plants but which also sell irises, he frequently sees irises listed for sale under names not registered with the AIS. Rasmussen asked for the cooperation of anyone coming across such listings in notifying either him or Secretary Stayer, as companies will sometimes discontinue an unregistered listing if it is called to their attention by the society.

Harder was thanked by Dr. McEwen for his help in obtaining information from the Historical Committee files.

Judges Training and Judges Chairman Crick distributed an interim report listing judges deceased or lost by non-renewal of membership. RVPs were reminded that they should notify Membership Secretary Ramsey of the death of any members in their regions, and that they should notify Crick of the death of any judges in their regions.

Membership Contest Chairman Kearney stated that three members have sent entries for this past year's contest. RVPs should encourage their region members to participate in getting new members and entering the contest. William W. Vines was the winner of the 1987 contest.

There was no report from the Policy Committee.

Public Relations Chairman Rice reported that the new calendar for 1989 is in the making. The display screen is receiving much attention at shows. Information about obtaining the display screen is in the BULLETIN. In the new issue of the SIGNA publication, there is an error: Readers are requested to send slides of irises to Rice "for the postage stamp." The notice should state that the slides are to be used in lobbying for the iris postage stamp. To the question of whether there will be a new edition of IRISES FOR EVERYONE, Rice replied that there are no plans and that she would need suggestions from members.

The meeting was adjourned until 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, at which time Rasmussen again welcomed all visitors.

Editor Mullin reported that material for the July issue of the BULLETIN was ready to mail to the printer, and Advertising Editor Nelson stated that advertising copy for that issue was in. Mullin acknowledged the help of Marie Caillet in contacting writers for the April issue. Nelson commended the guest editors of previous issues for their cooperation. Rasmussen praised the guest editors and spoke of the number of new writers used and the wide interest created in the articles presented.

Rasmussen then brought up the matter of the change from Williams Printing Company to Curley Printing Company, both businesses located in Nashville, TN, stating that both editor Mullin and Advertising Editor Nelson should have the chance to express their opinions. Following comments from the editors and discussion among the Board members, Gates moved, Corlew seconded, that printing of the BULLETIN be left in the hands of Williams Printing Company. The motion carried.

Robins Chairman Badger sent a report showing 18 active robins with a total of 613 members. Directors are needed for the Tall Bearded and Japanese robins. The inactive divisions are Aril and Arilbred, Regional, Spuria, and Red. Though interest has been shown in a computer robin, there is no director available at this time.

Scientific Committee Chairman McEwen reported on his study of the purposes and duties of the Scientific Committee on what, if any, its relationship to the AIS Foundation may be. The following conclusions were drawn with regard to the purposes and duties of the Scientific Committee:

1. It was established in 1926 (See AIS BULLETIN #23) for the encouragement of scientific research.
2. It serves as a committee to which questions of "scientific type" from members or others can be referred for study and answer.
3. It should give thought to studies that should be carried out and, if possible, discover likely investigators to undertake them.
4. If such studies and investigations are identified, the Committee may, with approval of the AIS Board, use its own research funds to support those projects or endeavor to help the investigator obtain the necessary funds from other sources.
5. It has modest funds for grants in support of scientific studies. Its most recent such grant was made in 1986.

These conclusions could be used in preparing a set of guidelines for the next committee chairman. McEwen stated further that there is no "official" relationship between the Scientific Committee and the AIS Foundation, and he asked the Board's judgment as to the desirability of having separate research grant funds for the Scientific Committee in addition to those of the AIS Foundation. There was discussion of this matter and further discussion of the research done by Dr. Homer Metcalf. Rasmussen stated that the subject will be brought up at the fall Board meeting.

Slides Committee Chairman Shockey reported that he is in need of recent slides of good arrangements, such as award winning arrangements from shows. Needed, also, are slides of new introductions. It was suggested that notices be placed in regional bulletins and newsletters to publicize the need for these slides.

Youth Committee Chairman Gates announced that the winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement for 1988 is Beth Bowman of Edmond, Oklahoma (Region 22). First runner-up is Shelly Moller from Colorado Springs, Colorado (Region 20), and second runner-up is Louise Anne Watson of Milledgeville, Georgia (Region 5).

Scholarship Committee Chairman Gristwood stated that from 27 applications received, Leah Chaudoir had been chosen as the recipient of the scholarship award, pending approval by the Board. Gristwood moved that this approval be given. Corlew seconded, and the motion carried. In answer to a question as to whether there should be a limit on the number of scholarships awarded, Rasmussen asked Gristwood to bring a recommendation to the fall meeting.

Following a ten minute recess, Foundation Liaison Pettijohn presented a treasurer's report for the Foundation. Noting that receipts of \$11,409.56 were exceeded by disbursement of \$21,350, Pettijohn commented that local societies must be encouraged to contribute to the Foundation if it is to continue. At a meeting of the Foundation the previous evening, the present officers and trustees were re-elected. Approved were a grant of \$18,000 for scorch research to Richard Schulman, a grant of \$10,200 to Louisiana State University for genetics research (primarily Louisianas), and a loan of \$5000 to the Society for Japanese Irises to be used for the publication of a book on Japanese irises.

RVP Counselor Machulak reported good representation at the RVP meeting the previous evening. Youth Committee Chairman Gates spoke to the group. Elected for the coming year were: RVP Howard (17), chairman; RVP B. Aitken (13), secretary; and RVPS A. Waite (1) and Zurbrigg (4), representatives to the 1989 Personnel Committee. Machulak stated also that all but three of the regions had complied with his request to send a copy of their regional bylaws.

Commenting on questions raised at the RVP meeting, President Rasmussen stated that the time has come to make a study of the AIS, its organization, its relationship to the regions, the sections, and the AIS Foundation, and the inter-relationships of all the groups within the AIS. There will be a committee appointed to study these questions.

For Convention Liaison Williams, Rasmussen stated that there were no changes to report. It was noted that the dates for the Omaha Convention in 1990 will be May 20-24, and that headquarters for the 1995 convention will be in Hershey, PA.

Section Liaison Lineberger reported that only four sections were represented at the meeting the night before. He plans to send meeting notes to all sections and to urge each one to send a representative to future meetings. One subject discussed was the difficulty in scheduling section meetings at conventions so that all who wish to may attend. Other subjects were seed exchange, verification of AIS membership of new section members, section bylaws, tax identification numbers and 501-C-3 tax status. Each section was asked to send a copy of its bylaws to Lineberger and to send a list of new officers to Secretary Stayer and Editor Mullin. Ray John will be the section representative to the 1989 Personnel Committee.

Beginning the reports of special committees, Barr, chairman of the committee to study library procedures, read the following recommendations from the committee:

a) that the Fresno Iris Society be informed that the AIS wishes to determine the contents of its own library by listing materials according to the present filing system which could be further identified by a numbering system. This could be considered a standardized format by those wishing to follow it;

b) that excess materials be listed from time to time in the BULLETIN for lending sections, regions, and local societies, this list to be supplemented by similar listings of duplicate materials of the various regions, sections and local societies, and further;

c) that the matter of indexing be set aside until there appears to be a need and a demand for it.

A further suggestion, not a part of the list of recommendations, was that a booklet be put together consisting of copies of the "Table of Contents" pages of all BULLETIN issues or of all issues for a given decade.

There was discussion of the need for the indexing of AIS publications for the use of scientific and library groups, of indexing individual issues of the BULLETIN as they are published, and of commercial groups which are, on their own, indexing publications such as the AIS BULLETIN for scientific and library use. Following discussion, Barr presented the recommendations in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Waite. The motion passed. No action was taken on the suggestion for a booklet of "Table of Contents" pages.

Mullin reported for the committee to study life memberships, specifically changes from single life to family life or family life to single life. Noting that, regarding life memberships, "no transfer of membership" can be allowed, the committee requested Board approval of the following policy:

1) An originally SINGLE life membership may be changed to FAMILY life membership by adding a spouse, or other legal family member at the same address, to the original SINGLE life membership upon payment of the appropriate fee differential.

2) Should a FAMILY life membership revert to SINGLE life status because of death, divorce or any other reason, the membership will forever remain a SINGLE life membership. Any request for change to FAMILY life membership will be denied, because this would constitute a transfer of membership.

Stayer moved that the policy be approved. Corlew seconded. After lengthy discussion, Lineberger moved that the motion be tabled until the fall meeting. Corlew seconded. The motion carried.

Waite reported for the committee to study the Spuria Iris Society's proposal to raise the Eric Nies Award to medal status and activate three Awards of Merit for spurias. The committee recommended that the Board not approve the proposal until such time as there is an increase in the number of spurias being introduced and the number of HMs reaches approximately the six HMs for one AM formula. Corlew moved that the recommendation of the committee be accepted. Crick seconded. The motion passed.

There was no report from the committee to study Test Garden alternatives.

Hobbs reported for the committee to study the policy on introduction of irises into commerce. The committee felt that there was no need for action in this matter.

Under unfinished business, Stayer reported on 501-C-3 tax status, reading a letter from Attorney Glenn Spain. The Internal Revenue Service has granted the American Iris Society its exemption under IRC 501-C-3. This status is retroactive to February, 1987. Mr. Spain noted that the IRS has given the AIS only an advance ruling until September 30, 1991. Within 90 days after that date, the AIS must submit information to allow the IRS to determine whether or not the AIS is supported primarily by public support in order to receive a permanent exemption as a non-private foundation. Mr. Spain stated that he was returning to Secretary Stayer the original of all related documents for the corporate files. This completes the major portion of the work Mr. Spain was retained to do. He stated, however, that there remain a number of matters which need to be dealt with dealing with the tax status of the advertising revenue of the society, the legal liability of the AIS with regard to the sections, and the relationship of the AIS and the AIS Foundation. Mr. Spain asked Stayer to advise him as to whether the Board wishes him to continue with his corporate review and to report appropriate findings to the Board as necessary.

Corlew moved, Copeland seconded that the Board instruct Mr. Spain to continue his investigation, to examine the inter-relationships of the society, and to continue to protect the interests of the AIS. The motion passed.

Following a recess for lunch, Rasmussen gave a progress report on the efforts directed at obtaining pictures to be used for the 75th anniversary postage stamp. Good color pictures are needed of native American species, either portrait or habitat. It was suggested that youth members might find it interesting to hunt for native American species. Pictures should be sent to Olive Rice.

There was an item of new business dealing with the AIS Display Screen. In the absence of Keith Fillmore, Rice explained a change in the method of payment for the rental and shipping of the screen.

Rasmussen called for the report of the 1988 Personnel Committee for nominations for the Board of Directors, terms expiring in 1991. Chairman Copeland presented the following names: incumbents Crick, Gates, Machulak and Copeland. Lineberger moved that the Board accept the report of the committee with appreciation for their fine work. Corlew seconded. The motion passed.

Rasmussen appointed Gristwood and Copeland as representatives of the Board to the 1989 Personnel Committee. Corlew moved, Machulak seconded, that the appointments be approved. The motion passed.

Appointed to a committee to study AIS awards for irises registered in other countries were Copeland, chairman, K. Waite and Stahly. Crick moved, Machulak seconded, that the appointments be approved. The motion passed.

Rasmussen said that a committee to study the inter-relationships within the AIS will be appointed in the fall.

It was called to the attention of the Board that there is an organization in Great Britain interested in the conservation and preservation of gardens and plants, and it was suggested that the AIS might be interested in cooperating and leading the way for this type of effort in this country. It was suggested that the recently formed Historical Iris Preservation Society be contacted to work with this group.

Rasmussen announced that the fall Board meeting will be held November 4, 5, and 6, in Fort Worth, Texas, and while it is not necessary for RVPs and Committee chairmen to attend, they are urged to do so, if possible.

President Rasmussen thanked Convention Chairman Mullin and the Convention Committee for their hospitality and expressed appreciation for all their work in planning an excellent meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

Claire Barr, Recording Secretary

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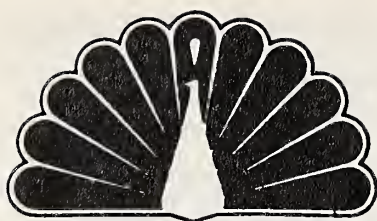
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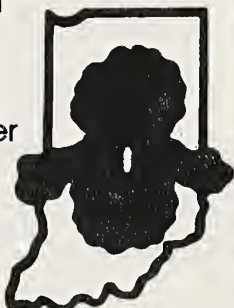
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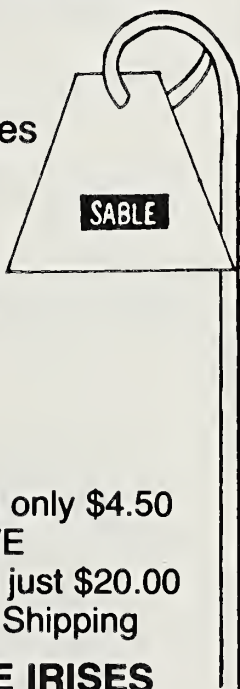
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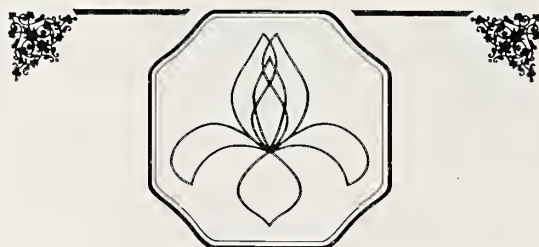
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Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor
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